

GRADUATE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS



The first step in deciding whether or not to attend graduate school is learning about yourself and defining your personal goals.

Questions to ask yourself include:

- What do you find exciting?
- Where do your passions lie?
- What do you want to get out of your graduate education?
- What are your motivations for going to graduate school?
- Do you need a graduate education to achieve your career goals (some fields do not require graduate education or have specific certificate requirements)? Reference ONET online for answers at: www.onetonline.org
IF you wish to become a college professor, doctor, psychologist, etc. you will discover that a graduate education is mandatory for state licensing requirements.
- What is the job outlook for this field? Have you job shadowed someone in this career? Or done informational interviews?
- Are you really motivated to commit the time and energy to graduate studies or do you feel like you need a break?
Honestly assess whether you have the dedication to pursue graduate studies. Graduate work requires a much larger commitment than undergraduate work in terms of time, labor, and intellectual vigor.
- Do you have dreams of travel, exploration, or starting a family?
A demanding graduate program workload will likely not allow the generous time necessary for many other obligations.
- Can you afford it? Have you looked into Fellowships/Scholarships/Grants? Or Graduate Teaching Assistantships/ Graduate Research Assistantships?
- Are you willing to move for the right program?
- Do you meet all the entrance requirements? Coursework, research, practical experience?
- Do you meet the minimum GPA requirements?
Typically 3.5 or better GPA is required.
- Do you know what type of graduate program you want? Master's or Doctoral (Ph.D.)? Online or Classroom or Hybrid?
- Need more help? Check out Peterson's online at: www.petersons.com