

HOW & WHEN TO BEGIN

There are many options for graduate school: Masters, Doctorate, and professional programs. Understanding your career goals and interests is key to choosing the right program. Throughout this process, remember to follow your own path!

Where to Search

- Your network, including faculty & advisor recommendations
- Accreditation websites
- [Career Development Student Graduate Outcomes](#)
- [Career Expos](#) (search for complete list of attending graduate schools on Handshake)
- [Peterson's Guide](#)
- [Niche.com](#)

Factors to Consider

- Will the program meet your professional and personal goals?
- Location and cost of living
- Cost of program
- Length of program
- Faculty
- Accreditations
- Career outcomes
- Rankings and reviews
- Opportunities for experiential learning (research, internships, clinicals, etc.)

Why Start Early?

- Application process can be time-consuming
- Completion of pre-requisite courses / credits
- Registration for graduate examinations
- Compliance to application deadlines



When to Apply

Students should begin the graduate school search process by their junior year. Application deadlines vary by program—doctoral programs often have deadlines between the winters of junior and senior year, while master's program deadlines typically fall within senior year. While some schools offer rolling admissions, it is essential to check each program's specific deadlines to ensure timely submission.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Graduate school application requirements vary by university.
Ensure that all required materials are submitted on time.
Thoroughly proofread your documents for any grammatical or formatting errors,
as even small mistakes can impact your chances of acceptance!

01. BUILDING SKILLS

Graduate schools value applicants with skillsets and experiences that are related to their programs. You can gain these by taking advantage of research, internships, and/or campus involvement.

02. PRE-REQ COURSES

Graduate programs often require pre-requisite undergraduate courses that provide an essential foundation for advanced study. Ensure you have/are completing these courses, which can be found on graduate programs' websites.

03. APPLICATIONS

Applications include sections 4-8 on this checklist and are often completed online, but some schools might require mailed materials. Be sure to review each program's requirements carefully. Pay attention to deadlines.

04. LETTERS OF REC

Letters of recommendation may come from professors, supervisors, or mentors who know you well and can speak to your qualifications and character. Request them early and provide key details for a strong letter.

05. TEST SCORES

Common tests are the GRE (including Subject Tests), GMAT, LSAT, and MCAT. Application deadlines will help you plan when to register, but do so in advance in order to 1) retake if necessary, and 2) send your scores to each school. Utilizing studying materials is recommended.

06. TRANSCRIPTS

Graduate programs require official or unofficial transcripts from your undergraduate university and high school. Order transcripts through your university's Registrar's Office. Contact your high school to obtain secondary transcripts.

07. ESSAYS

Graduate programs often require personal statements, statements of intent, and/or essays with specific prompts. Check out our [Personal Statement Writing Guide](#) to access helpful tips and templates.

08. RESUME/CV

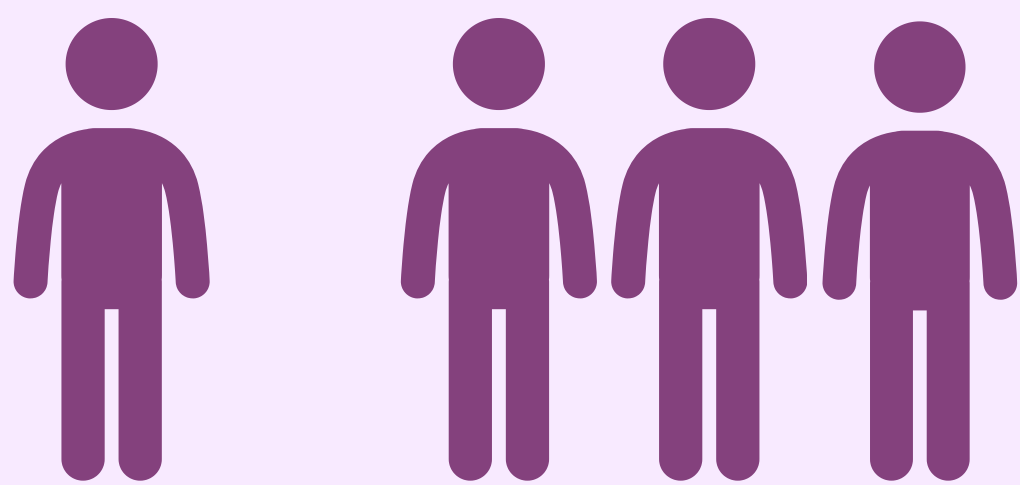
Depending on the type of program you apply to, you'll be asked to submit either a resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Explore our [Resume Writing Guide](#) for resources, best practices, and customizable templates.

INTERVIEWS

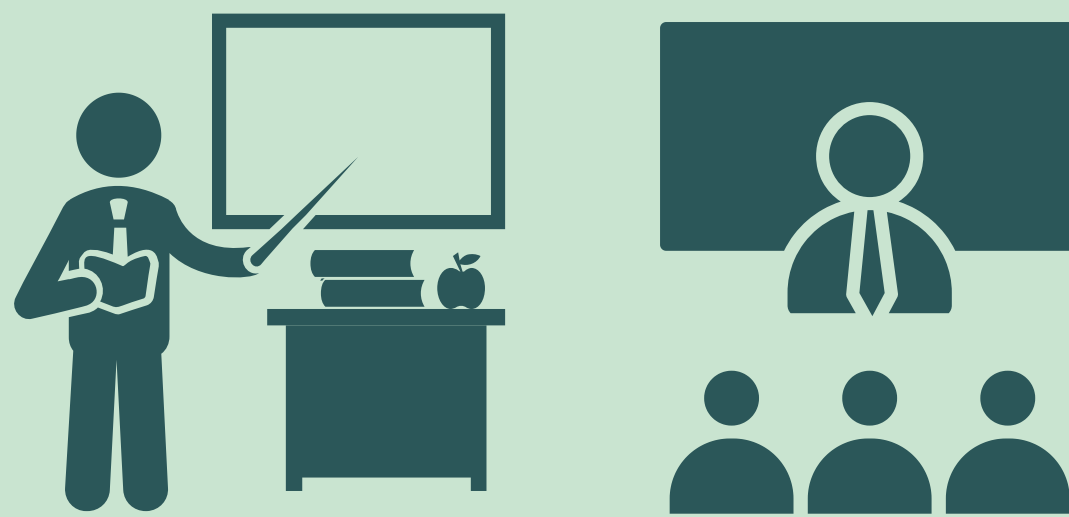
Making the Match

Graduate school interviews serve as an opportunity for both the applicant and the program to assess mutual fit. For applicants, it's a chance to demonstrate your interests, qualifications, and how you align with the program's goals. For admissions committees, interviews help gauge the candidate's skillsets, dedication to graduate school, and potential for success in the program. It's a vital part of the process that allows both sides to determine if there's a strong match for academic and professional growth.

- INTERVIEWS MAY BE -



Individual or Group



**Conducted by
Faculty or Faculty & Student(s)**



In-Person or Virtual

Dress to Impress!

Business Professional is recommended for in-person and virtual interviews. Visit our [Royal Threads Closet](#) if you are in need of professional clothing items!

Schedule a personalized mock interview with our Career Team! Our expert Career Coaches will tailor questions specifically for your graduate program interview.

Tell us about yourself.
Why are you interested in our program?
How do your goals align with this program?
What is your greatest strength/weakness?

**Prep
your own
questions to ask!**

**Frequently
Asked
Questions**

What are your career aspirations?
What are your clinical/research interests?
How do you manage stress?
What do you see being the biggest challenge in grad school?



Visit our [Interview Prep Guide](#) for more information on best practices!

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR GRAD APPS

Who are Graduate Admissions Counselors?

Graduate Admissions Counselors assist prospective students with the application process for their institution's graduate programs. They provide guidance on admission requirements, deadlines, program selection, and required documents. Their office's contact information can be found on each graduate program's website.

The University of Scranton Graduate Programs

The University of Scranton offers a diverse range of graduate programs across multiple disciplines. Visit the [Graduate Admissions](#) website to explore your options and learn more!



Connect with Program Faculty

Networking with faculty demonstrates your interest, provides insight into the program, and helps align your goals with faculty expertise, which can be helpful for mentorship or research.

Scholarships, Fellowships, & Assistantships

Graduate programs may offer programs to help fund your education. Scholarships are merit-based awards, fellowships provide financial support for research or study, and assistantships offer stipends for teaching or research. Explore program-specific opportunities and apply early to maximize funding options. Connect with your graduate admissions counselor to learn more about your options.

We can help!



(570) 941-7640



careers@scranton.edu

The Roche Family Center for Career Development is here to support all Scranton students on their career journeys, including the graduate school application process. Schedule an appointment on [Handshake](#) with our Career Team for:

Document Reviews
(Essays, CVs, Resumes)

Program Research and
Exploring Career Interests

Mock Interviews +
Interview Prep