

Going to Graduate School



Careers After Graduate School

Researcher

Publisher

Lobbyist

Teacher

Professor

Academic Advisor

Principal/Director of Education or of Adult Education

Librarian/ Information Science

Careers After Professional School

Lawyer

Psychologist

Career Counselor

Information and technology sector

Policy Analyst-Federal Government

Archivist

Pathways to Further Education

	GRADUATE SCHOOLS	PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS	POST-GRAD DIPLOMAS/CERTIFICATES
What is it?	Intensive study of a particular area/subject, often involving a strong research focus →E.g. English MA	Study leading to a professional designation such as lawyer, teacher or doctor	Training in career-focused areas such as pharmacy technician or early childhood education
Duration?	1-2 years (or more)	Varies, generally 2 years or more	1-2 years
Admission Requirements	Generally a strong GPA, research experience, references	Strong GPA, relevant experience, extra-curricular involvement, references	University degree, demonstrated interest in particular areas
Tips	<u>Cultivate References:</u> Get to know your professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.	<u>Get Involved:</u> Build relevant experience and skills by engaging in paid work, volunteer and co- curricular activities.	<u>The AA&CC can help!</u> Attend the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair in early Fall.

Lots of Resources Available to Support You

- <https://www.universitystudy.ca>

Offers up-to-date information on Canadian universities and academic programs.

- **Application & Personal Statement Resources**

- Effective Admission Letters (U of T Writing Centre): www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/admission-letters
- The Personal Statement: How to Get it Started (videos/exercises) www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/applying-professional-graduate-schools

- **Funding/Financial Aid Sites**

- OSAP and the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS) osap.gov.on.ca
- Canadian Institute for Health Research www.cihr.ca
- Social Science Research Council of Canada www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Which Graduate Program is Right For You?

Questions to ask yourself

- A. What programs interest you and at what institutions are they taught?
- B. What are your goals for further study and how well do specific programs meet your goals?
 1. Are you looking for a specific research focus? Which faculty members research in your areas of interest?
 2. What are the program requirements? Do you have the core qualifications or do you need to pursue further courses and gain experience before applying?
 3. Have you spoken with your professors and other experts to learn about an institution's reputation, strengths and weaknesses?
 4. Is the campus and location right for you? Where possible, visit the campus. Research the costs, campus life, housing, student services, funding/financial assistance, and other aspects of student life that are important to you.

When should I start thinking about graduate school?

- Begin the process at least 1 year before you plan to apply:
 - ✓ Research programs to find deadlines and application requirements.
 - ✓ Register and prepare for any tests (e.g. GMAT for an MBA program; GRE required for most graduate programs in the United States).
 - ✓ Complete your statement of purpose or personal statement/biographical sketch at least one month before the deadline to allow time for feedback.
 - ✓ Complete the online application before deadline. Deadlines vary by program and can be as early as Fall for entry the following September. (U of T MA Program in English Applications begins October 1)
 - ✓ Approach your references well in advance of the deadline to request letters of reference. Provide them with a copy of your statement and resume/CV to help them write a strong letter.

- Questions about going to graduate school?