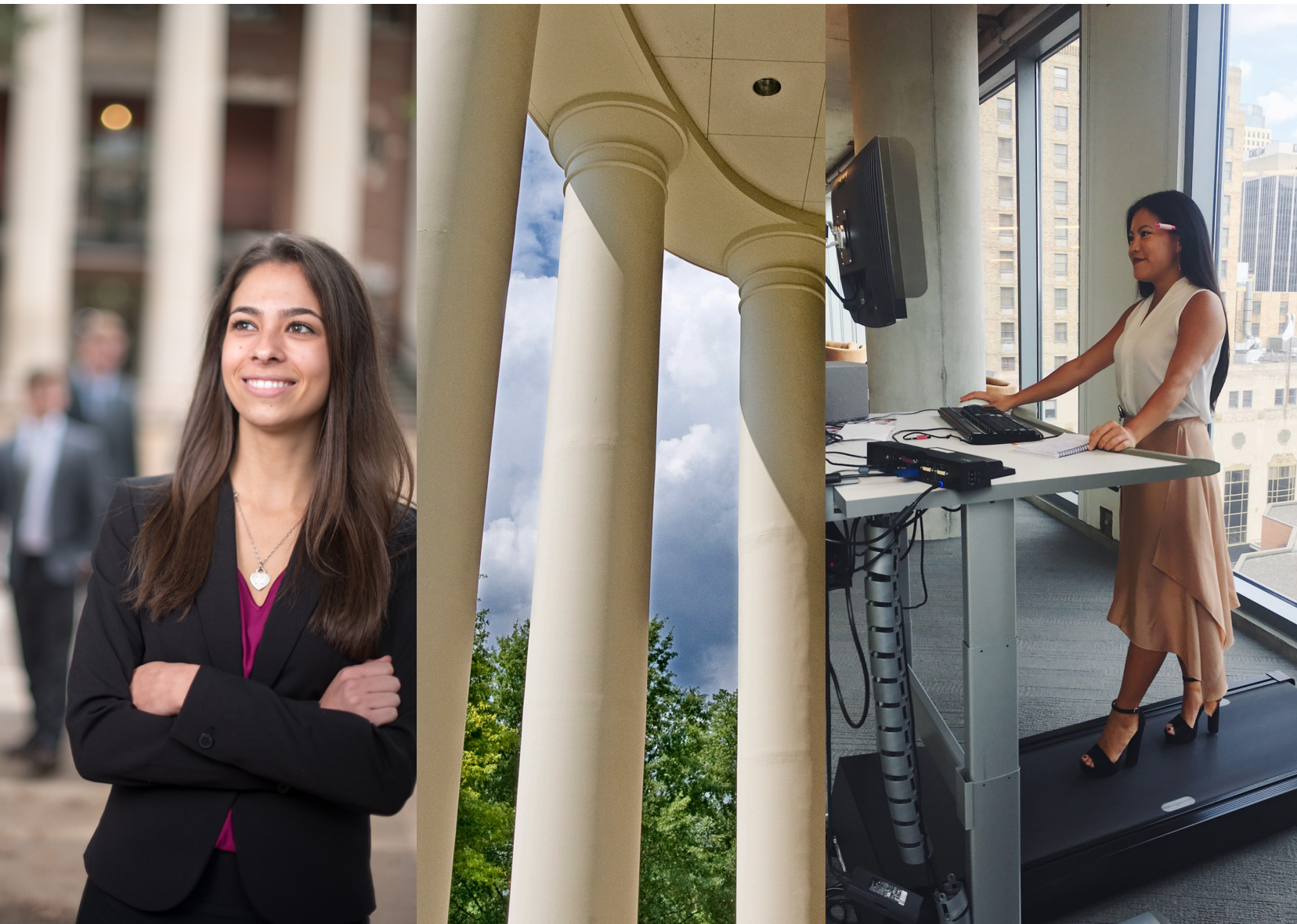


THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA[®]

Culverhouse
College of Business
Career Center at Culverhouse

Grad School Student Guide



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]



Why Grad School?

So you have made it through four years of college and have earned your degree. Now what? Good question. Ready for the answer? Graduate school.

The benefits of an advanced degree are numerous, and so are the reasons for earning one. Many people return to school after working for a few years in order to advance in their current career, and many others are returning to change their career or deepen their knowledge of their undergraduate studies. The following are some of the benefits graduate students obtain:

Earnings **Premium**

Average earnings are significantly higher for individuals with advanced degrees than for those whose highest degree is a bachelor's. In 2015, average earnings for 35- to 44-year-olds with master's degrees were 23 percent higher than the average for those with bachelor's degrees (\$87,320 versus \$71,100).

Employment **Opportunities**

In many career sectors, such as higher ed administration, public affairs, and social services, a master's degree is replacing a bachelor's as the minimum requirement for employment. With a bachelor's degree in the 1980s, one could secure an entry level position as an admissions counselor, academic adviser, or student services coordinator. By the 2000s, applicants for these same entry-level positions were not even considered unless they held a master's degree. While holding a graduate degree is not a guarantee of ultimate success, it certainly opens many more doors for employment.

Career **Flexibility**

Graduate school can also provide the gateway to a new career. If your interests lie in business, you can typically gain admittance to graduate business programs even with an undergrad degree in another area. Similarly, someone who wants to become a psychologist may leave a science or business career and complete graduate studies in psychology. Graduate school can also open teaching doors. Some grad assistants teach lecture classes while earning a degree.

Expanded **Network**

Graduate school offers countless opportunities for you to meet other professionals in your field, as well as outside of it. Through professional development workshops, career fairs and internships, graduate students are exposed to a vast network of new connections that can be utilized later in a professional capacity.



Why Grad School?

Career **Advancement**

Earning a graduate degree is evidence of persistence, determination, intellectual prowess, and the ability to handle challenging environments—all of which are sought-after qualities for individuals filling manager and director positions. An employee who has demonstrated success in a long-term situation that requires stamina, discipline, leadership, and the ability to work well with others is going to be in line for growth opportunities within his or her organization.

Greater **Recognition**

There are countless numbers of graduate degree holders who have gone on to accomplish great things, and who are afforded the respect and recognition they deserve and have earned. Unquestionably, an advanced degree makes a difference on a résumé. It says something about who you are and the dedication you have to your chosen field.

Personal **Growth**

Some people are lifelong learners. They have an insatiable desire to add to their knowledge reservoir, challenge themselves academically, and experience what they consider to be among the most rewarding life pursuits: developing the mind. For these individuals, a graduate education offers the opportunity to do all of that and in a structured way that can deliver great personal satisfaction.





Why UA Grad School?

OUR MISSION

The University of Alabama will advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the state, the nation and the world through the creation, translation and dissemination of knowledge with an emphasis on quality programs in the areas of teaching, research and service.

The University of Alabama offers both research-based and professionally focused programs, at the master's and doctoral level. Our campus is not only beautiful (among the 50 Most Amazing Campuses, bestcolleges.org 2017), but has facilities that are second to none—laboratories, collaborative study space, and high-tech classrooms and workspaces.

For more information on specific Graduate Programs at The University of Alabama, please visit: <https://graduate.ua.edu/academic-programs/>.

ACCOLADES

Fifteen University of Alabama alumni and students won Fulbright awards for 2018-19. Two UA students and alumni received Fulbright research awards. Thirteen 2018 graduates won awards as English teaching assistants overseas.

U.S. News and World Report Rankings 2019

Culverhouse Law ranks 26th among the nation's top law schools, both public and private.

Manderson Graduate School of Business boasts the number 1 over-performing MBA Program in the nation, indicating the school is producing far better MBA graduates than U.S. News & World Report peer assessments indicate.

Manderson Online Business Master's program ranks 13th in the nation.

University of Alabama Library and Information Studies Program ranks 28th in the nation.

University of Alabama Clinical Psychology program ranked 50th in the nation for social work.

Public Accounting Report's 2017 rankings place Manderson Master's programs ninth overall, and the doctoral program is ranked seventh.

Twenty-six current UA faculty have received NSF CAREER Awards, the nation's most prestigious recognition of top-performing young scientists, in disciplines ranging from nanoscience and engineering biological sciences. Forty-three UA faculty researchers are in the National Academy of Inventors.





Why UA Grad School?

UNIQUE FEATURES OF GRADUATE SCHOOL AT UA

- Small Class Sizes
- Innovative, Forward-thinking Culture
- Top-tier Employer Connections
- Graduate Level Work Opportunities
- Life-long Career Services
- Quality Research Opportunities
- World-renowned Professors
- Low-cost Tuition
- Focus on Professional Development
- Extensive Community Involvement

OUR CORE VALUES

The University of Alabama is committed to:

- Undergraduate education that produces socially-conscious, ethical and well-rounded leaders who are grounded in their subject matter and capable of controlling their own destinies.
- Graduate education that is deeply vested in subject matter knowledge, professional content, research skills and creative activity.
- Public outreach and service that is held in the highest regard and fosters impactful public engagement to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Alabama, the nation and the world.
- Campus life that embodies collaboration, collegiality, respect and a culture of inclusivity.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 38,563 undergraduate, professional, and graduate students enrolled at UA in the fall semester of 2017,

- 41% come from Alabama
- 56% come from elsewhere in the United States
- 3% are international students from 82 countries
- 56% are women
- 44% are men





Why Culverhouse Law??

Whether it's the low student-to-faculty ratio, high bar passage and employment rates, stellar placement in federal clerkships, opportunities in public interest and public service, numerous advocacy teams and journals, clinical experiences, or international programs, the list of wonderful things happening at our law school seems to never end. And having all this at an affordable cost in an exciting and collegial environment makes Culverhouse Law the destination for outstanding students, faculty and staff.

QUICK FACTS

Accolades

- US News and World Report Tier 1 Law School
- A "Best Value" Law School, according to the National Jurist
- Enrollment: Approximately 409 JD students
- 6.3 to 1 student to faculty ratio
- 13,000 hours of community service completed last year

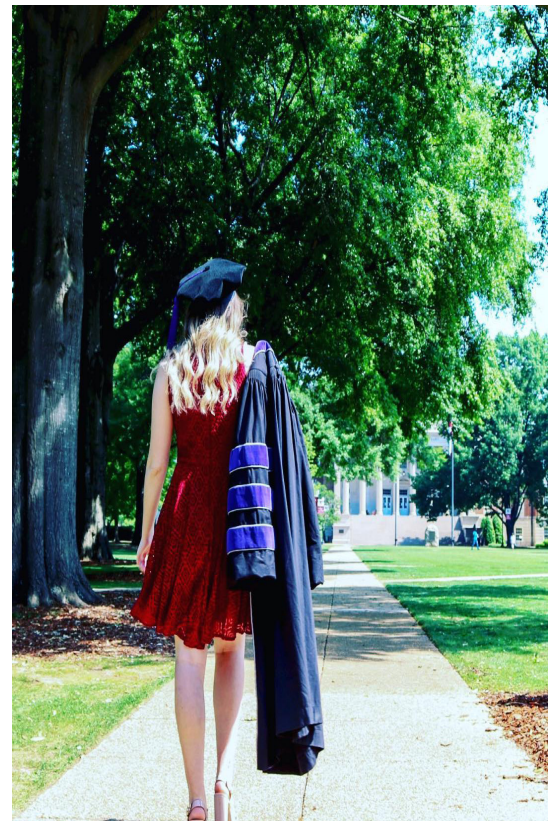
Notable Alumni

- Hugo L. Black – U.S. Supreme Court Justice
- Morris Dees – Co-founder of the Southern - Poverty Law Center
- Harper Lee – Author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

One-Year Tuition Estimate

Resident \$23,610/ Non-Resident \$41,870

Please Note: University tuition is determined by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama in June and is subject to change each year.



If you are looking for an outstanding first-year experience, a strong community atmosphere, great faculty relationships, lower tuition and student debt, innovative elective offerings, hands-on legal experience, and fellow students who join together to serve others, Culverhouse Law is the place for you.

HUGH F. CULVERHOUSE JR.
SCHOOL OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®



Why Manderson?

At Alabama, champions are all around - in the classroom and on the field. Since 1944, our Manderson Graduate School of Business has been producing champions of the business world. The Manderson experience is built on academic, teamwork, professional development, internship, networking, and service opportunities.

With quality over quantity in mind, our classes are small. This offers an experience that is both richer and more personal than larger programs. The Master's experience at Manderson is a carefully, strategically crafted program of study that incorporates core and concentration coursework. Our faculty and staff work with our students to ensure they are prepared to build a championship-caliber career.

MANDERSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

21st among public universities, **2nd** in the SEC and **63rd** overall according to the 2017 U.S. News & World Report

13th **Best Online Master's Program** by U.S. News & World Report

5th **Best Online Graduate Program for Veterans** by U.S. News & World Report

#1 **Over-performing MBA Program**, indicating the school is producing far better MBA graduates than U.S. News & World Report peer assessments indicate



CONTACT US

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0223
Phone: 205-348-6517
culverhouse.ua.edu/graduate-programs

KEY DATES

- January 5
First Priority Deadline
- February 15
2nd Priority Deadline
- April 15
Regular Deadline
- Advised International Deadline
- July 1
Transfer/Special Deadline



Why Master of Business Administration?

Two-Year Estimate

Resident \$28,759 / Non-Resident \$64,082

Concentrations available in:

- Business Analytics
- Enterprise Consulting
- Finance
- Financial Risk
- Real Estate
- Supply Chain & Operations Management
- Strategy & Marketing

Starting Salaries

2018: **\$68,870**

2017: **\$66,856**

2016: **\$72,050**

2015: **\$66,755**

2018 MBA Class Statistics

- Placement within 90 days of Graduation - 92.1%
- Less than one year of work experience - 90%
- Average salary \$68,870.00
- Full-time employment in 22 states across the U.S.

Top Industries

1. Consulting
2. Manufacturing
3. Financial Services
4. Information Technology



Class of 2018

51
Class Total

3.55
Avg. GPA

Class of 2019

54
Class Total

3.52
Avg. GPA



Why Master of Business Administration?

STEM Path to the MBA

The STEM Path to the MBA is a five-year program that focuses on attracting high-quality undergraduate students majoring in **science**, **technology**, **engineering**, and **mathematics**.

Class of 2019

Class Total 97 / Average GPA 3.71

Undergraduate Majors:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Architectural Engineering
- Biological Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Mathematics
- Metallurgical & Materials Engineering
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Kinesiology
- Nursing
- Psychology

CREATE Path to the MBA

The CREATE Path to the MBA is a five-year program that focuses on combining the business knowledge and technical exposure needed to manage **innovation**, **creativity**, and **design** efforts in high-tech businesses.

Undergraduate Majors:

- Advertising
- Apparel & Textiles
- Art History
- Art Studio
- News Media
- Creative Media
- Dance
- Interior Design
- English
- Public Relations
- Journalism
- Music Theory
- Music Composition
- Music Performance
- Theatre

Executive MBA

At The University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business we bring together a group of highly successful managers, professionals and executives across a broad spectrum of industries and job positions for our Executive MBA Program. Our alumni call their experience in the EMBA Program life-changing, challenging, valuable and transformative. The UA EMBA goal is to provide the tools and opportunities to drive more success for our students, alumni and their companies. We emphasize leadership and improving business skills to further professional and personal aspirations.

UA EMBA offers two convenient formats for working professionals: An every-other-weekend face-to-face format on the main campus in Tuscaloosa and a once-a-month blended in-class/online format in Huntsville, Alabama.



Why Specialized Masters?

Master of **Accountancy**

This program is designed for students whose primary career interests are accounting and assurance services. The program prepares students for professional careers in these fields by focusing on the development of research, cognitive thinking, and communicative skills.

Master of **Tax Accounting**

This program provides a multidimensional approach to the education of tax specialists. In addition to covering the technical tax rules, the MTA program prepares students in the areas of tax research, communications and critical thinking. Students attend classes at the Manderson Graduate School of Business and Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law at The University of Alabama. This approach equips the graduate of the program with the knowledge and skills needed for a successful career as a tax accountant.

Master of **Arts in Economics**

This degree is designed to equip students with the conceptual knowledge and practical skills needed to do state-of-the-art economic and statistical analysis in business, industry, and government. The program focuses on providing fundamental concepts of economic analysis, developing strong quantitative skills in econometrics, economic forecasting and statistical analysis, in-depth application of the SAS statistical software package, and certification in data mining from the SAS Institute.

Online Master of **Arts in Management**

This program is designed to prepare students to meet the challenges of the global marketplace with the flexibility that online brings. The program offers you the opportunity to develop skills necessary to be successful in a global business setting. Learn the complexities of managing business in a global arena, including the challenge of managing a culturally diverse environment. As a graduate of this program, you will understand the degree to which globalization has changed the way management is practiced in today's society.

You will also gain a broad knowledge of subjects that are key to effective global management including: managerial economics, managerial finance, accounting for global management, economics for global management, international marketing, global leadership and ethics, managerial statistics, and global business.



Why Specialized Masters?

Master of **Science in Applied Statistics**

This program offers general courses in classical statistical methods, mathematical statistics, regression and experimental design, as well as specialized courses in topics including data mining, quality control, multivariate analysis, statistical computing, linear models and nonparametric statistics. The program is flexible, allowing students to structure courses in a manner that complements their career objectives.

Master of **Science in Business Analytics**

With access to a hands-on education in the high-tech Marillyn A. Hewson Data Analytics Lab and Manderson's approach toward student career services and corporate engagement, graduates will be prepared to make a transformative difference in a rapidly-evolving field by using data mining techniques to extract valuable strategic information from vast amounts of corporate data.

Master of **Science in Finance**

This program offers focused training in corporate finance. The course of study is designed to provide insight into the important role of finance intermediaries, the management of financial intermediaries and an understanding of the markets in which they participate, the valuation of financial assets such as stocks, bonds, derivatives and other specialized assets and how they are managed in a portfolio, the determination and behavior of interest rates and rates of return on assets, and the incentives and determinants of corporate behavior.

Master of **Science in Marketing**

This is an intensive program designed to give students advanced analytical marketing skills and hands-on experience with which to launch a career in one of marketing's many fast-growing fields, such as analytics, research and insight development, project management, sales, etc.

Master of **Science in Operations Management**

This program focuses on the effective management of the resources and processes that produce and deliver the goods and services for any business. The program emphasizes the applications of quantitative analysis to the design and management of business operations.

For more information on prerequisites, courses, cost of attendance, and how to apply, please visit: culverhouse.ua.edu/graduate-programs



Tips for Applying

Scholarships and **Grants**

Look into scholarships and grants that the school, government, corporations, or private organizations set aside for various types of qualifications (veteran, single parent, cultural member, etc.). Take the time to apply to as many as you can find, but be thorough with each.

Resume **Review**

Get your resume reviewed by your undergraduate career advisor, mentor, and professional contacts in the field you are applying to. Focus on highlighting skills and experiences that are transferable to the graduate program you are applying to. See https://issuu.com/uacc/docs/2018_career_guide for more information on resumes for specific majors.

Entrance **Exam**

Research the particular exam you need to take for your graduate program ahead of time. Most entrance exams take 2-6 months to prepare for in advance. Take a practice test, set your study schedule, and develop a study plan for most effective results.

Rolling **Admissions**

Many graduate programs operate on a rolling admissions basis, which means that the earlier you apply, the better chances you have of getting in or getting scholarships.

Graduate **Assistantships**

Many universities receive a certain amount from the government for each graduate student they accept, and as such, they will often waive part of the tuition fee via a part-time graduate assistant position. However, these are limited, so inquire about them immediately upon acceptance.

Applying for **FAFSA**

To qualify for federal, state, and college financial aid for graduate school, you have to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). As a graduate student, your need is no longer based on your parent's income; therefore, you do not need any information from them. Your award will be based on your income and assets, and possibly your spouse's.

Career **Change**

If you are going to grad school because you want to pursue a new career path, consider a few quick online classes to refresh your academic knowledge and prepare for your upcoming studies.



Letters of Recommendation

Why are they important?

Letters of recommendation are required for almost every graduate school application and are a very important part of the application process. Usually grades and test scores factor in most heavily; however, your letters of recommendation could be the deciding factor in the admissions process, as it gives a better macro view of you as an individual.

How can I go about getting good letters of recommendation?

Make an effort to get to know your professors and/or supervisors. A few ways you can do this are to speak up in class, select courses with small class sizes, take more than one class from a professor, do research for a professor, take on optional projects, and regularly attend office hours. The best strategy you can use to get a good letter of recommendation, particularly if a professor hasn't known you long, is to provide your letter writer with ample information about you. This way, you will get a letter that includes concrete details about you, instead of a letter that contains only your grade, which is of limited value.

Who should you ask?

The best letter writers are those who know you well and can provide an evaluation of your ability to perform and succeed at the graduate level. Try to find professors who you have communicated with regularly or someone with an advanced degree who has supervised you in a job or internship aligned with the graduate program you are pursuing. Letters from family friends, political figures, and the like are discouraged and, in fact, may be detrimental.

How do I approach potential letter writers?

First, make a list of professors and/or supervisors who will be your best advocates. Then, set up an appointment to discuss your request in person. Do not make the request via email. Be prepared to articulate your interest and reasons for attending graduate school. Letters of recommendation are written strictly on a voluntary basis. The best approach is to ask potential letter writers if they are willing to write you a strong letter. If you sense reluctance or the answer is no, ask someone else.

When should I approach potential letter writers?

Professors and supervisors are generally pleased to write on your behalf; however, they are usually involved in many activities, especially during the months of November and December. Approach your letter writer at least two months before you need the letter. If you plan to take some time off before going to graduate school, ask professors for a "general" letter of recommendation before you leave undergrad.



Personal Statements

A graduate school personal statement or similar type of application essay is your opportunity to show the admissions committee what you're made of. They want to know why you're applying to their graduate program, and the application essay is your chance to communicate that to them as clearly and compellingly as you can.

How do graduate schools use your application essay?

The graduate school personal statement serves two basic purposes. First, they show whether you know how to write a clear, coherent essay that's logically and grammatically correct. These days, students' writing ability is often presumed deficient unless proven otherwise.

Second, the application essay gives you the opportunity to present the admissions committee with more of a "three-dimensional" perspective of yourself as a deserving candidate than GPA and GRE/GMAT numbers possibly can.

What you choose to write sends clear signals about what's important to you and what your values are. You can explain why you really want to pursue graduate work and outline the career path it will enable you to follow. Your essay also enables you to address things that may warrant explanation, such as a dubious grade in an otherwise creditable record.

What does the admissions committee look for?

Reading your graduate school personal statement or statement of purpose is the best way for the admissions committee to determine who you are and whether you would be a good fit for their program. Remember, they're trying to get a holistic view of your intellectual character, your ambitions, and your academic skills. So, don't hesitate to go beyond narrow academic experience when searching for essay topics.

Feel free to discuss events or successes outside of school that have nonetheless helped to define your professional or academic life. If you have overcome significant obstacles, say so. If you were honored with an award, describe the award and what you did to achieve recognition.

Learn how to write about yourself

Preparation pays off when considering how to write your graduate school personal statement, so start early. Review your goals and aspirations, write several drafts, and talk to students and professors to gain insight about yourself. Then, give some thought to your goals and how to articulate them compellingly in a statement of purpose.

How will you accomplish those goals? What can you contribute to the graduate school community? What can you contribute to this particular degree program? If you can answer these questions in a clear and concise manner, you shouldn't be at a loss when it comes time to put pen to paper and write your application essay.



Personal Statements

Wrong Question: “Why I Want To Go To Grad School”

If you thought the grad school personal statement is actually a “Why I Want to Go to Grad School” essay, you are not alone. However, writing that kind of personal statement can prove detrimental to your grad school application. Should you explain, at some point in your personal statement, why you want to go to grad school? Of course! But is that the primary goal of your essay? Absolutely not. Grad schools want someone who’s hardworking, competent, and mature, and going on and on about why you want to go to grad school won’t give admissions officers reason to believe you’re any of those things. If anything, an essay devoted entirely to explaining why its author wants to go to grad school runs a risk of making that author seem less mature.

Right Question: “Why You Should Accept Me Into Your Program”

This is the primary question you need to answer. You don’t want your personal statement to *sound* like a sales pitch, because nobody likes being sold to, but a sales pitch is exactly what your personal statement is.

The fundamental question that your essay needs to answer — “Why should you accept me into your program?” — can be broken down into three sub-questions:



WHY ME?

Explain why you’re an excellent candidate.



WHY YOU?

Illustrate why you want to participate in that particular grad school/program.



WHY NOW?

Clarify why you’re applying to grad school now, as opposed to three years from now or three years ago.





Entrance Exams

For any entrance exam, good practice involves:

Take a **Practice Test**

Take a full-length, realistic practice test to find out what your Quantitative and Verbal scores are early on. Ideally, the test results will include not just your scores but also information about what types of questions you did well on and which ones gave you trouble. This information will help you design your study plan.

Set Your **Study Schedule**

Don't let test day take you by surprise; know how many months in advance you need to start studying, and stick to a schedule. Studying most days of the week will improve your score more than studying one or two days a week. Many students find that studying for 5 days a week in three 30-minute segments, for an hour and a half each day, helps them make significant progress. In addition, if vocabulary is an area you have targeted for improvement, plan to carry flashcards (physical cards or a phone app) with you and work on vocab throughout the day. Also schedule in more practice tests as test day nears.

Develop Your **Study Plan**

How should you study? An effective approach is to first use a resource such as a prep book or prep class to learn some strategies or content and then follow up by practicing what you just learned with test-like questions. Applying what you learn right away to the types of questions you'll see on test day will help you solidify your knowledge so it sticks with you. During the last week before your test, emphasize your strengths. For example, if you get most questions about geometry correct, then practice geometry questions several times this week to boost your confidence and ensure that you can count on this skill.





Entrance Exams

Professional Degrees

MCAT

The AAMC recommends that the average pre-medical student should spend 300-350 hours preparing for the MCAT across several months. The MCAT will test your ability to apply basic knowledge to different, possibly new, situations as well as your ability to evaluate arguments. You can choose to follow the AAMC recommended study plan, which includes:

1. Find Out Everything You Can About the Exam
2. Figure Out Where You Stand: How Much Do You Know?
3. Use Free and Low-Cost Resources to Help You Prepare
4. Create Your Study Plan
5. Study and Practice
6. Commit to a Final Rehearsal or Practice

See more at <http://image.email.aamc.org/lib/fe8e13727c63047f73/m/1/8440d892-f769-44cf-8664-85b507e07976.pdf>.

LSAT

If you know how to prepare for the LSAT, you can study for the LSAT and improve in a pretty dramatic way. It is recommended that you study 150-300 hours over 3-6 months. There are three things you can do while studying that will help you get a great LSAT score:

1. **Master Grammar and Logic** - The LSAT tests your ability to parse and decipher complicated sentences. Sentences with triple negatives, referential phrases, and clauses within clauses. Once you actually understand what the questions and answers say, you have to understand how the logic plays out. Concepts like validity, conditional statements, and premises should be near and dear to your heart.
2. **PRACTICE** - At a minimum, you should take a practice test, including a writing sample, under the time constraints. This will help you estimate how much time you should spend on each question and also show you which question types you should spend more time practicing. Take only real LSATs. Most LSAT books that you see in the bookstore do not use real LSATs. They make up their own questions to avoid licensing fees.
3. **Review Your Answers** - Once you have finished a practice exam, you should do something called a "blind review." When you take the practice tests, you circle every question you are unsure about. After the test is over, go through every one of those questions and take however long you need to on the question – without looking at the answer. Then when you mark your test you will have two scores (your real score, and your blind review score). If your blind review score is low, then you need to work on your grammar and logic. If your blind review score is high, then you need to work on your speed.



Entrance Exams

Master's Degrees

GMAT

With three months to prepare, you can think about dividing your study time into two parts. During the first two months, focus on mastering the strategic approaches to each type of question on the GMAT, as well as the grammar and math content knowledge you'll need to get questions correct. During the last month, build up to maximum performance on Test Day: focus on answering questions more quickly by doing timed practice tests and challenge yourself with tougher questions.

See more at <https://www.kaptest.com/study/gmat/how-to-study-for-the-gmat-in-3-months/>.

GRE

With two months to prepare a study plan for the GRE, you can think about dividing your GRE study time into two parts. During the first month of your GRE study plan, focus on mastering the strategic approaches to each type of question on the GRE, as well as the vocabulary and math content knowledge you'll need to get questions correct. During the second month of your GRE study plan, focus on answering questions more quickly by doing timed practice.

See more at <https://www.kaptest.com/study/gre/how-to-study-for-the-gre-in-two-months/>.



Manderson MBA students pose with UA President, Dr. Stuart R. Bell, after a professional development workshop.



Entrance Exams

What is the difference between the GMAT and the GRE?

	GRE	GMAT
Why Take It	The test is required for admission to most graduate schools and a growing number of business schools.	The test is require for admission to most business schools.
Test Structure	The GRE consists of a 60-min Analytical Writing section - with two essays at 30 min. each. There are two 30-min. Verbal Reasoning sections. There are two 35-min. Quantitative Reasoning sections. There's also a 30-35 min. experimental section that can be either math or verbal.	The GMAT consists of a 30-min. Analytical Writing section with one essay, a 30-min. Integrated Reasoning section, a 62-min. Quantitative section and a 65-min. Verbal section.
Test Format	Offered as a computer adaptive by section exam. Paper version only offered in areas of the world where computer-delivered testing is not available.	The GMAT is a computer-adaptive test.
How It's Scored	Verbal and Quantitative scores from 130 to 170 in 1-point increments.	The overall score ranges from 200 to 800 in 10-point increments.
Cost	\$205	\$250
Testing Time	3.75 hours (Computer); 3.5 hours (Paper)	3.5 hours

Is one test better/easier than the other?

Since the GMAT and the GRE are completely different tests, comparing scores on the two is like comparing apples to oranges. ETS (the folks who administer the GRE) and GMAC (the folks who administer the GMAT) both use comparison tools to put student's scores into perspective, but many graduate programs use the ETS comparison tool as a benchmark. To get the most out of your score and your application, you should research your chosen schools to see what score ranges they require for admission.

How do I choose?

The best way to determine whether the GMAT or GRE is better suited to your abilities is to get your feet wet with a practice test for each exam. Getting into business school is competitive and you don't want to take an actual GRE or GMAT exam unseen. Companies like Kaplan & The Princeton Review offer full-length computer-adaptive diagnostic tests for both exams.

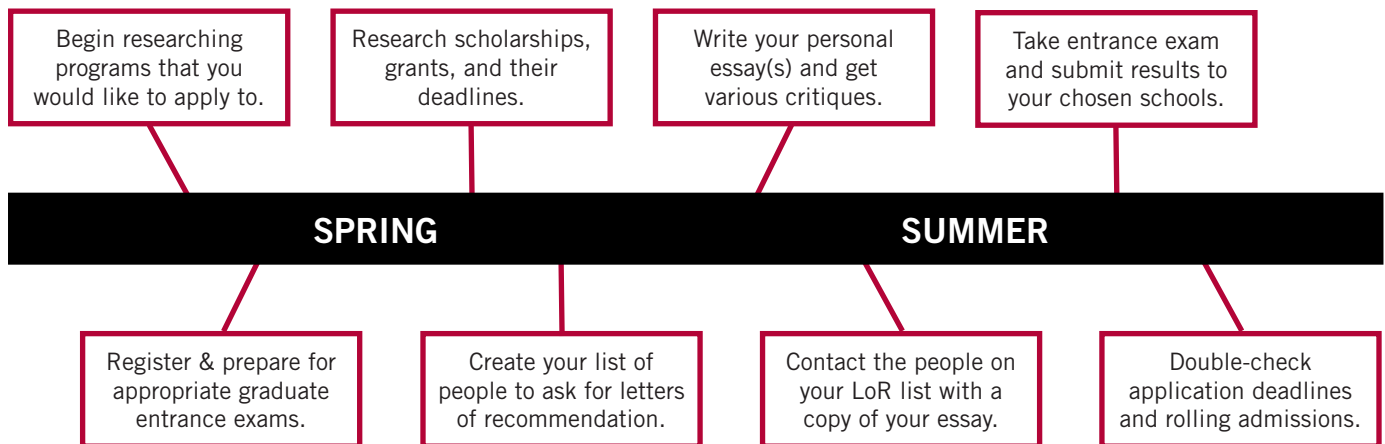


Application Checklist

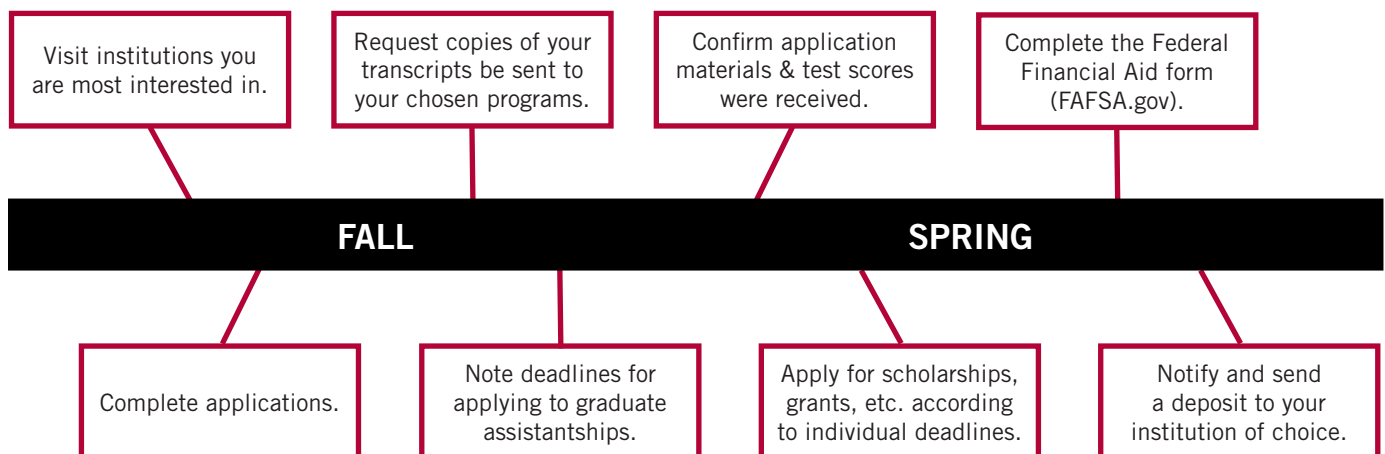
Below is a sample timeline if you plan to pursue graduate school immediately following your undergraduate work. This is not the only way to “do graduate school” and many individuals find that working for several years before graduate school may be the best way to clarify their graduate plans. No matter when you’re planning to apply to graduate school, it’s best to start early—it will increase your odds of being admitted. Many graduate programs have rolling admissions, which means applications are evaluated as they arrive (rather than all at once after the final deadline).

The sample timeline below is a best-case scenario which leaves time to craft a great application, resolve unforeseen problems (a lost transcript, a delinquent recommender) and submit with time to spare.

Junior Year



Senior Year



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Culverhouse
College of Business
Career Center at Culverhouse

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