



**UNC  
GREENSBORO**  
Division of  
Student Affairs

**Career &  
Professional  
Development**

#1 EUC | 336.334.5454  
careers@uncg.edu  
cpd.uncg.edu

# SHOULD I GO TO GRAD SCHOOL?

Graduate school encompasses academic programs that typically require the completion of a bachelor's degree. These include master's and doctoral degrees. The purpose of these degrees is to advance your knowledge and skills in specialized areas of the workforce.

## Some common reasons why people go to grad school

- They are entering a career in which a graduate degree is required to do the job. Examples include medical doctors, physical therapists, speech pathologists, mental health/school counselors, lawyers, university administrators, medical doctor, dentist, optometrist, physician's assistant, physical therapist, occupational therapist, pharmacist, veterinarian, speech pathologist, nurse practitioner, mental health counselor, licensed clinical social worker, university professor/researcher, higher education administrator, school counselor, registered dietitian, nurse anesthetist, lawyer, policy maker/analyst, etc.
- They are getting their degree paid for by their employer, grant, or scholarship
- They want to continue their education and have the financial means and time to commit to the coursework

## Misconceptions about grad school

- I'll make more money if I have a graduate degree
- I'll be able to move up more quickly and have more job options

*\*Remember that having a degree alone does not guarantee that you will get a job, get paid more, or have more job options. This is very dependent on the field.*

## Reasons to take a step back and assess if now is the right time for grad school

- You don't need it to enter your initial career after college
- You are unsure of your career plans or goals
- You don't know what career you would pursue after finishing the grad program

## Chat with a career coach!

Everyone's situation and goals are unique. Career & Professional Development is here to help you determine whether grad school is right for you! There are many things to consider such as the cost, location, time commitment, type of program, assistantships, back-up plans in case you are not admitted, and whether you want to take time off in between.