



Plan for graduate school

It's never too early to start thinking about graduate school. In fact, planning for grad school is a lot like preparing for your undergraduate degree. So check out these tips about the application and admissions process—they may sound familiar!

Good grades matter

As you know, when you apply to college they ask for high school transcripts, which showcase how you did in your classes and what your overall GPA was. The same goes for graduate school. As part of the application process you will need to share your undergraduate transcript with your prospective graduate school. Most programs require a minimum of 3.0. So be sure to keep your grades up during college!

Prep for the GRE

Remember the SAT? Well, to apply for graduate school you need to take the GRE. The GRE test scores provide graduate schools a way to evaluate applicants. You can choose to take the general test or a more specific subject test depending on what you'll be studying. Just like the SAT, though, your GRE score isn't the only thing admissions departments will be considering. So do your best, but remember it's only part of the application.

Ask for help

Sure, the application process can be a bit daunting, but you don't have to go it alone! Talk to your admissions counselors at your school and be in touch with the admissions staff at your future graduate school. Schedule time to meet with faculty and also talk to graduate students. There is a great support network available; you just have to ask for help!

Find your passion

During your undergraduate years you have the chance to try on all kinds of different careers, through a variety of courses, extracurriculars and even internships. But graduate school gives you the opportunity to focus on what your passion really is and allows you to specialize your studies and become a subject-matter expert.

Ask about 5-year programs

Many colleges offer programs through which you can earn both

a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years. This option saves you time, as a bachelor's degree takes four years and a master's typically takes an additional two to three. You will also save money by only paying for five years of school, not six or more. Not to mention you'll save the energy it takes to apply to grad schools while you're an undergrad

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