Graduate School

Course Title	Graduate School
Duration	45 minutes
Course description	In this course, you will learn about graduate school, including how to make a decision on a program that's right for yu, what aspects you should consider, how to apply, how to fund your tuition, and what to do post-enrollment.
Performance Objectives	By the end of this lesson, learners will be able to identify various aspects of graduate school and determine what path is best for them along with the appropriate steps to take in order to apply for grad school.
Instructional Designer	Serena Olivi

Assets

Assets	Unique Tracker	Asset name & Description
Storyline with Layers		The three types of grad school will be displayed. Interaction includes clicking each type and seeing a description for each.

Design Info:
- Header font size: 32pt
- Subheader: 28pt
- Body font size: 20pt
- Font: Lato

- Colors Scheme:
    - Dark blue #285086
    - Light blue #488FEF
    - Gray #DFDFDF

Rise Block Type	Text Content	Images/Screenshots/ Custom Images or Infographics	LxD Notes
Page Header ▾	**Introduction**		
Text on Image ▾	"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." -Nelson Mandela	Graduation/cap and gown	
Paragraph with heading ▾	**What is Graduate School?** Graduate school is a higher education institution that awards postgraduate degrees such as Masters and Doctoral degrees. Students who attend grad school have already completed an undergraduate degree and are looking to pursue an advanced academic or professional degree.		
Image & Text ▾	**Grad school is often:** - Focused on a more specific field of study to support your furthering education or career choice. - Greater amounts of independent work or research. - More personal experience with professors and classmates.		
Paragraph with heading ▾	**Types of Grad School** Select each of the cards to learn more:		
Interactive Storyline with Layers	Heading: Types of Graduate School Button 1: Masters Degree Button 2: Doctoral Degree Button 3: Terminal Professional Degree		

Masters Degree Layer	A Masters Degree is a graduate degree that allows students to build advanced knowledge of a specialized content area. The most common masters-level fields include business, education, health professions, computer science, and public administration.		Opens as a layer Image on left
Doctoral Degree Layer	A Doctoral Degree is the most advanced degree you can earn, symbolizing that you have mastered a specific area of study. The most common doctoral programs include health professions, law, education, engineering, and biomedical sciences.		Opens as a layer Image on left
Terminal Professional Degree Layer	A terminal degree is the highest achievable degree in an academic field or processional discipline. The most common terminal degrees include philosophy (PhD), education (PhD), medicine (MD), dental surgery (DDM), veterinary medicine (DVM), and law/juris (JD).		Opens as a layer Image on left
Paragraph with heading ˅	**Who Should Attend Grad School?** Your choice whether or not to attend graduate school can be informed by many factors. Do you		

	simply want to further your knowledge in a specific field? Does your career choice require a masters degree? Will earning an advanced degree lead to a higher income or a more prestigious position in your current or planned field of work? Graduate school is suitable for many students but not always a necessity. Let's dive further into things you should consider when deciding if grad school is right for you!		
Page Header ▾	**Things to Consider**	Image of lecture hall/university class	
Text on Image ▾	There are many reasons to choose to attend graduate school. Additionally, graduate school enrollment grew by 6% between 2010 and 2020, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics.		
Paragraph with heading ▾	**Is Graduate School for You?** You can use the following list of questions to guide your ideas on whether or not you should attend.		
Interactive: Accordion ▾	1. Is a graduate degree necessary for your desired profession? Companies may not list an advanced degree as a *requirement* for your role, but it could still make you a more competitive applicant. You can look up statistics to research the percentage of people in or applying for your desired role who have an advanced degree. 2. Are you trying to improve your current job situation?	1. 2.	Images centered on each tab.

	Some fields require different degrees in order for you to advance beyond a certain point in the field. Many people work for several years after graduating from college, then decide to pursue an advanced degree later. 3. Will a graduate degree improve your professional options or job transition? If you want to change fields completely but have little to no experience in the field you want to enter, you may benefit from pursuing a graduate degree in your desired field. The resources and networks offered by being enrolled in academia can also provide opportunities for you to gain experience or job prospects.	3.	
Note ▾	Still unsure if you need an advanced degree? Take this short assessment: https://www.educations.com/quizzes/should-i-get-a-masters-degree-22137		Image on left
Image & Text ▾	Once you have determined your motivation for going to grad school, write it down so you can continue to refer back to it throughout your studies. Being familiar with your motivation can also help you discuss your plans with family, friends, mentors, and other people in your network who can support your application process.		Image on left
Heading ▾	**The Graduate School Learning Environment**		

Image & Text ⌄	Universities have started offering different learning modalities to support students' diverse needs and preferences. You can choose to attend in-person or virtually, or choose to follow a hybrid model. The costs and access to resources may vary depending on the modality you choose. Keep in mind that graduate-level courses will generally require more independent learning while offering more specialized content and smaller class sizes. This could affect your modality preferences.		Image on right
Note ⌄	You should also consider factors that may affect your schedule such as whether or not you will be working while studying.		
Paragraph with heading ⌄	**What are the Requirements?** In order to get accepted into a graduate program, you need to be sure you research the program you're interested in and complete the requirements prior to applying. This can include taking the appropriate standardized test(s) such as the GRE, requesting official transcripts from your previous colleges, obtaining letters of recommendation, and occasionally, creating a professional portfolio. These requirements may sound familiar to when you were applying to college several years ago. However, the grad school application will differ from your undergraduate application in that you will need to write a personal statement instead of a college essay, and you will likely need to include your resume as well		

Paragraph with heading ▾	**Knowledge Check** Complete the following question to check your knowledge about considerations to keep in mind before applying to grad school.		

Knowledge Check: MC ▾	Which of the following are common reasons to pursue grad school?
	   a. To advance in your current career
	   b. To gain networks and experience to facilitate a career change
	   c. To pursue additional or more targeted knowledge or certifications in a particular field
	   d. All of the above (Correct)		

Page Header ▾	**Applying to Graduate School**	Books	
Text on Image ▾	"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King		
Paragraph ▾	The graduate school application process can seem daunting, but the time management and organization skills and tools you already have in your arsenal can come in handy during this time. Scroll through the process below to introduce yourself to the grad school application process.		
Interactive: Process block ▾	Introduction Applying for a graduate program takes time and planning. Program requirements may vary between types of programs and/or institutions, so be sure to check the websites of the specific schools you are considering applying to in order to be sure you are completing all the steps required.		

Step 1:

Step 1: Choose a Program

If your career path requires a graduate degree, you should choose a program and institution based on factors that are important to you. The program should give you a holistic experience learning about the career path you want to pursue and should include classes that are interesting, fulfilling, and relevant. Ask yourself:

- Do the faculty and staff of the institution make adequate time for students?
- How likely are you to be admitted to that program?
- What is the job market like for alumni of this program?

Other things you might want to consider are cost, location, accessibility options (virtual vs. in-person), or any professors you might want to connect with or study under if you are looking into longer programs or a Doctorate degree.

Step 2: Plan out your Application Process

Start early! You should start considering your plans **12-18 months** before beginning your program.

Most programs have strict deadlines for applications, but you will need to get a head start on some tasks, since many require you to wait on other stakeholders or may take some time to complete.

Here are some essential tasks that will most likely need to be taken care of (and their timelines) in order to submit an application:

Step 2:

- Securing Letters of Recommendation (6-8 months)
- Standardized Tests such as GRE, MCAT, LSAT, or GMAT (2-5 months)
- Writing a Statement of Purpose (2-3 months)
- Requesting Transcripts (1-2 months)
- Filling out Application Forms (1-2 months)

Step 3: Request Transcripts and Recommendation Letters

You will need to to include transcripts from every postsecondary institution that you attended for your graduate school application. This can include:
- Dual credit from high school (AP classes, etc.)- these may already be accounted for in your undergraduate transcript(s)
- Time studying abroad
- Any colleges you attended while pursuing your undergraduate degree, including classes you took at other institutions or transfer credits

For your recommendation letters, think carefully about who you'd like to ask; this could include a former professor, work manager, or research supervisor who can speak to your ability to succeed in graduate school.

Step 4: Schedule and Take Standardized Test(s)

Determine which standardized test(s) are required for the graduate program you are interested in. The GRE General is the most common assessment needed, but there are others required for more specific programs. Be sure to research which test applies to you!

Step 3:

Step 4:

These tests are offered through various modalities depending on your accessibility and travel needs. Some have take at home options, while others may need you to select a date that the test is proctored and travel to a location to take it. If you opt for the at-home option, you may also need to ensure that your testing space and device specs meet the requirements.

Checking these options in advance ensures that you will be able to find a time to take the test that works with your schedule and allows you time to study.

You may also want to do research on score ranges that the institutions you are applying to will accept and decide if these ranges are realistic for you, and how much time you will be able to allocate to studying.

Step 5: Write your Resume and Personal Statement

Resumes help put all your achievements and activities into one organized page. You can meet with the career services on campus for support and feedback on your resume or look for any resume workshops you can find on campus or online.
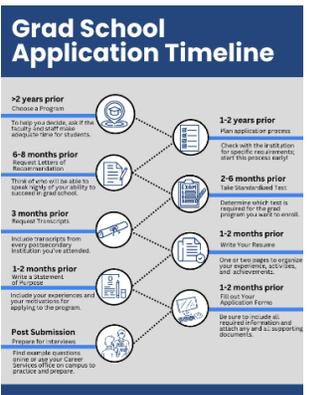
A personal statement, on the other hand, helps portray your character beyond the experiences and achievements listed on your resume. This statement can expand on those accomplishments, but you can also use the space to describe your motivations for applying to this graduate program, your academic goals, and your career aspirations.

Step 5:

You can also write about any professors in that program who you look up to or whose work you are interested in.

Step 6: Prepare for Interviews

Practicing for interviews can help relieve your nerves and boost your confidence during the interview. You can find example questions online and prepare answers to them based on the program you are applying for.

Be sure to have knowledge about the program and the field of study you're interested in so you can be more prepared.

You can also have a few questions of your own to ask the interviewers about any funding opportunities, access to resources, or job outcomes after graduation.

Conclusion

Be sure to look up your specific institution requirements for applying to their program.

Keep yourself organized with all of the deadlines and be sure to submit items on time so you can present yourself as an exceptional candidate.

Step 6:

Conclusion:

Paragraph ▾

Many people apply to a few different programs at once, if they are unsure if they will be accepted into their top choice program. You will likely not apply to as many graduate programs as you applied to for undergraduate, but 2-4 programs can be a common benchmark.

	If you are applying to multiple programs at once, **staying organized** will be important in order to keep track of the different dates and requirements for each application. Using a tool such as Google Sheets or any other planner you use can aid this process.		
Note ▾	For more information on application stages for graduate school, refer to this link: https://www.scribbr.com/category/graduate-school/		
Paragraph with heading ▾	**Knowledge Check** Complete the following true or false questions to check your knowledge about applying to graduate school.		
Knowledge Check: MC ▾	**True or False**: You can reuse your college message as your personal statement for your graduate school application. (Answer: False)		
Knowledge Check: MC ▾	**True or False**: There are both in-person and at-home options to take certain standardized tests such as the GRE. (Answer: True)		
Knowledge Check: MC ▾	**True or False**: You only need to request a transcript from your most recent college or institution of study to send to the graduate schools you are applying to. (Answer: False)		

Image & Text ▾	**Print this out!** Keep this printable timeline with you (or hang it in your office space) to help keep you organized!		
Page Header ▾	**Conclusion**	Graduation Caps	Image on Left
Text on Image ▾	You have now reviewed how to select a program, submit applications, and prepare for graduate school.		
Paragraph with heading ▾	Reflection Take a few minutes to think about the following questions:		
List: Bulleted ▾	• What aspect of graduate school seems the most challenging to you? How can you overcome this challenge? • Depending on where you're at in your decision to attend graduate school, what is your next step in this process? • What information do you still need in order to move forward in your grad school decision?		
Paragraph with heading ▾	**In Your Community** Reach out to someone in your network who has attended graduate school. Brainstorm a few questions to ask them about their experience. Possible questions could include:		

List: Bulleted ▾	- What were your motivations for attending graduate school? - What was the most challenging part about applying? - How did you balance your schoolwork with your other responsibilities at the time? - If you could go back and do it over, what (if anything) would you have done differently?		