



WHAT ABOUT LAW SCHOOL? GRADUATE SCHOOL?

- Law school is a popular path with a lot of our majors - we recommend that you check out [UCSB's Pre-Law advising program](#) so that you can get a sense of whether it's the right path for your goals, along with help with your application materials.
- Some thoughts on graduate school:
 - Visit [Grad School 101](#) on the UCSB Career Services Center website for some initial exploration (things like - why go to graduate school? Is it a required next step after undergrad? what are good and less-good reasons to go? what are the different degree types and programs that are out there?)
 - Thoughts on graduate school from [Ask a Manager](#):
 - [should you go to graduate school?](#) + [thinking about grad school? think again](#). Note: This is not intended to sway you away from graduate school, just a few things to think about to make sure that grad school is a good investment for your specific career path!
- In most cases, students considering graduate programs are either looking at academic graduate programs (PhD and some Masters programs) or professional graduate programs (some Masters programs and MBA programs). Also, students with a Global Studies BA degree are not limited to graduate programs labeled as "Global Studies" - you could look at any program that is in a related field (international relations, education, political science, sociology, history, etc.)

- Academic graduate programs are built on students doing a lot of research, so students considering this path should already be engaging in research with faculty members as undergraduates. (How to get involved? Start going to office hours for professors you click with, ask them if they are working on anything interesting and whether they are looking for student research assistants, look at the [FRAP program listings](#), etc.)
- Professional programs are designed to prepare you for a specific job field, and it can be a good idea to build your undergrad resume with things that align with this job field (internships, etc).
- Make sure to read grad program details carefully so you can get a sense of which type of program meets the goals you are trying to reach!
- Visit the [APSIA graduate school program matcher](#) to get some ideas of what career fields and graduate degrees and specific graduate programs might be a good fit for your goals.
- If you start looking at UCSB graduate programs (whether in the Department of Global Studies or another department on campus), take a look at [Graduate Division's list of tips and recommendations for planning to apply to graduate school](#), too! This is a useful resource even if you're not going to end up attending a graduate program at UCSB, though.
- Letters of recommendation are a key part of many graduate school applications, and they can be really intimidating to request. Some tips:
 - The type of program you're applying for, along with a careful read of the application instructions, can often give you clues as to who might be a good source of a recommendation for you.
 - For academic programs (PhDs and many Masters programs), you'll want academic references (so, professors that directly oversaw your work in class and with whom you've had a strong number of positive interactions.) Sometimes TAs can be a good fit for this, too, especially if you connected with them well.
 - Having trouble identifying professors that can write you a letter? If your application is due in the next couple of weeks and you have nobody in mind that you've connected with, you may not be a strong fit for the program you're applying to

just yet and may want to hold off for a year so that you can lay the groundwork (attend office hours, take more courses with the professor(s) you respect or who work in the area(s) you want to study, etc.)

- For more professional programs, do you have a work supervisor in that field that would be able to speak well and specifically about your skills and qualifications? In these cases, a professor who doesn't know you well may not be as strong a recommender as someone who oversaw you in an internship or on-campus job.
- Ask for recommendations as far out as you possibly can - professors are very busy people who may turn you down simply because they don't have enough lead time on the request.
- For more really useful recommendation letter tip from the UCSB Reddit page, [take a look here!](#)