ScholarMatch

Graduate School

There are many reasons why a scholar may choose to attend graduate school. For some scholars, the professions they are pursuing require it, and for others, they want to specialize in a certain subject. The goal of this conversation is to support them through the preparation process and encourage them to make an informed decision.

Part I - Reflection

Guiding Questions

- What interests you about attending graduate school?
- What do you wish to achieve by attending graduate school?
- Do you know what to prepare for the application process?
- Have you talked to individuals who have a graduate degree in the subject you're interested in?
- Is it financially feasible or wise to attend graduate school in the near future?
- Are there family obligations that will be affected by your decision to attend graduate school?
- Will you be able to work while pursuing your graduate studies?

Here are a few of the **best reasons** to attend graduate school[1]:

- A graduate degree is necessary for entry into a chosen field.
- A graduate degree is important for upward mobility and increased earning potential in a chosen profession.
- A graduate degree is necessary to make a wanted career change.
- Passion for the subject.

There are also, of course, lots of **misguided reasons** to choose graduate school, including[1]:

- Uncertainty about the future.
- The economy/job market is bad right now.
- Avoiding financial or other obligations.
- Meeting the expectations of others.
- Making more money.
- The college classroom is warm and welcoming.

Part II - Resources

- O*NET - this tool allows scholars to get a quick overview of different occupations.
- Graduate School Guide Book - a helpful resource for all things related to graduate school.
- Graduate School Application Timeline - suggested timeline for graduate school applications

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[1] https://www.gograd.org/graduate-school-guide-book/