Is Graduate School Right for Me?

How can graduate school help me?

- Potential for higher earnings and advancement
- Develop skills and experience
- Enhance your education and opportunities
- Reach advanced career goals
- Requirement for some fields (psychologist, attorney, etc.)
- Helpful for career changes

When should I go to graduate school?

- **Go Straight to Graduate School from Undergrad**
  - *Advantages:*
    - You're already used to studying, writing papers, taking tests, and being a student.
    - You might not have some of the same obligations (financial, family or otherwise) in your early twenties that you are likely encounter in your thirties or forties.
  - *Disadvantages:*
    - You may be already paying off substantial student loans, and taking on more debt may be challenging.
    - Without relevant work experience, it will be more difficult to apply what you are learning to real life situations. Subject matter may remain too theoretical.
- **Get Work Experience Before Going to Graduate School**
  - *Advantages:*
    - Prior work experience can provide you with a deeper understanding of your field and industry and can help you clarify your future career goals.
    - You can save money to fund your education.
    - Your employer may offer tuition reimbursement as part of your benefits package.
  - *Disadvantages:*
    - If you plan to go to graduate school full-time (working part-time or not at all), you may find it hard to give up that steady paycheck and live on a student's budget again.

What to keep in mind when choosing a program

- Think about your career goals
- Research programs related to your career goals
- Research requirements for your career goals
- Keep your financial needs in mind
- Check that your academic qualifications match the program requirements
- Choose locations which offers strong opportunities for your chosen career path
- Look into the success rates of program graduates
- Meet with the Career Development staff to assist with your graduate school decision making process