GRADUATE SCHOOL &/OR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Presented by the Academic Advising Center
AGENDA

- Job vs Career
- Pros & Cons
- Graduate School
- Job Preparation
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Identify pros and cons of earning a graduate degree before working full-time
• Describe pros and cons of working full-time before earning a graduate degree
• List resources in researching graduate school programs or full-time work.
How many of you...

a) Want to go to graduate school full-time?
b) Want to begin work right after graduation?
c) Want to work full-time and go to graduate part-time?
d) Want to work part-time and go to graduate school full-time?
e) Not sure?
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
WHY GRADUATE SCHOOL?
WHY GRADUATE SCHOOL?

The following is a list of reasons why graduate school might be ideal or potentially beneficial:

• Career Goal
• Compensation
• Staying Marketable
CAREER GOAL

• Help you reach your career goal
• Professions that require a graduate degree
• Find opportunities that are aligned with your career goals
COMPENSATION

• A graduate degree can be worth more in lifetime earnings than a high school diploma
• Increase in compensation depends on the position and or industry
Median weekly earnings and unemployment rate by educational attainment, 2018

- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree
- Master’s degree
- Bachelor’s degree
- Associate degree
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma, no college
- Less than a high school diploma

Median usual weekly earnings
Unemployment rate

STAYING MARKETABLE

• For some professions without an advanced degree continued advancement is limited
• Having an employer pay for your advanced degree
• It is important to know what are your own reasons for attending graduate school
WHEN SHOULD YOU CONSIDER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Immediately

**PROS**
- Accustomed to being a student
- Study Skills are sharp
- Less obligations
- Occupations that require advanced degrees

**CONS**
- Could choose the wrong program
- Not a competitive candidate to admissions committee
- Unlikely to fund entire tuition and expenses
WHEN SHOULD YOU CONSIDER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

PROS

- Confirmed your career goals through hands-on practical experience
- Completed the needed work experience to apply for graduate programs
- Bring actual work experience to the theory you will learn in class
- Some employers may pay for partial or all of your tuition
- Financial stability

CONS

- Struggle with study skills
- Work, life & school balance
- Attending class and working with students significantly younger
- Leave a paid position to complete an internship opportunity.
WHEN SHOULD YOU CONSIDER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

PROS

- Locate employers willing to pay for your education while you work
- Financially stable while concurrently working on improving your skills
- Minimal student loans
- Know you already have a job after graduation

CONS

- Balancing your job, school, and personal life
- Organizing schedule to accommodate school, work and possible unpaid internships
- Adjustment to work/school load; may take longer to complete program

During Entry level Career
GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

• Advising Center
  • Graduate School Counseling
  • Test Preparation Books
• Graduate School Handbook
• Career Counseling
• Writing and Multiliteracy Center
GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

FACULTY

• Expert knowledge in career specific industry
• Share personal career-path
• Research information/opportunity*
• Student selection process*
• Review Essays*

Don’t forget the Admission Advisors at your Graduate School of interest!
ATTEND ANNUAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT CSUCI

- Graduate School Workshops
- Graduate School Night Panel
- Graduate & Professional School Fair
- Pre-Doctoral Information Sessions
GRADUATE SCHOOL SUPPORT

- Graduate School Counseling
- Career Center
- Test Preparation Books
- Graduate School Handbook
RESEARCH CAREER OPTIONS

• U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics
  • www.bls.gov

• Educational and Career Planning
  • www.myplan.com

• Career exploring
  • http://mynextmove.org
  • http://www.onetonline.org/
RESEARCHING EMPLOYMENT & CAREER OUTLOOK

• From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook:
  • Can help you find career information on responsibilities, education, training, pay, and outlook for hundreds of occupations
  • http://www.bls.gov/ooh/
REFERENCES

Dang, P. California State University Channel Islands. Plan B Graduate School or Full-Time Work [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from Career Development Services