



Is graduate school right for you?

SPH AT A GLANCE

Every year, approximately 30% of School of Public Health seniors choose to enter graduate or professional programs following graduation. The decision to pursue an advanced degree is an extensive commitment in terms of time, money, and energy. Graduate or professional school is not a plan in and of itself; it is a step in the pursuit of a specific career goal. It is important to make sure you have a career plan in place to make the most of any graduate or professional degree you decide to pursue.

ASSESS YOUR READINESS FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

CAREER GOALS What are your career goals?	
BENEFIT How will an advanced degree help you attain these goals? Is an advanced degree required?	
CONVERSATIONS What discussions have you had with professors, advisors, career coaches and parents?	
ACADEMIC STAMINA Do you have the academic stamina to continue in your pursuits or do you need time to re-energize?	
ELIGIBILITY What has been your academic performance and does it meet admittance criteria?	
PREPAREDNESS How could full-time work experience enhance your credentials for graduate or professional school admittance?	
EXPENSE How will you fund the expense of graduate school and what funding options are available ie: fellowships or assistantships?	

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Furthering Your Career Goals.

THE APPLICATION TIME LINE

After fully assessing the commitment and educational/professional value of graduate or professional school, consider the following time line during the application process.

DIRECT TRANSITION TIME LINE

Junior year

- Review and fulfill all prerequisite course requirements.
- Engage in field experience to meet observation requirements.
- Establish time-line to prepare and take entrance exam (GRE, MCAT, etc.)
- Prepare drafts of personal statement and resume and review with career coach.
- Identify and cultivate relationship with network for potential letters of recommendation.

Senior year

- Take entrance exam early.
- Select and prioritize graduate programs.
- Finalize your personal statement and resume.
- Make official request for references, providing resume and personal statement.
- Begin official application process.

GAP YEAR SCENARIO

Students may find themselves in a gap year scenario for a number of reasons. They may have changed majors or decided on a career path later in the academic time-line. Take this time to strengthen your application by fulfilling prerequisite courses, getting practical experience, or gaining global perspective. Find the positive in your gap year situation.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION FORM

Most schools require completion of a general graduate school application.

TEST SCORES

Fields require different standardized tests, the GRE and MCAT being the most common for healthcare professional school. Allow several months to self-prepare or take preparatory course.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Three letters of recommendation is common. Allow one month lead time and provide your resume and personal statement.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Contact the Office of Registrar to obtain electronic or printed copies of your IU transcripts.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Career Services, Writing Tutorial, and Health Professions and Prelaw Center (HPPLC) all great campus resources for assistance.

RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Prepare to submit a flawless, tailored resume or CV as part of your application materials.