

SO YOU WANT TO GO TO GRAD SCHOOL?

- 2021 -

DETERMINE IF GRAD SCHOOL IS NECESSARY/DESIRABLE:

<https://abound.college/gradschool/advice/5-steps-thinking-about-grad/>

<https://www.mba.com/business-school-and-careers/why-business-school?nav=header>

<https://www.bentley.edu/academics/graduate-programs/mba> *

You should determine if pursuing graduate school is something you should/need to pursue for your desired career path. These links can help you figure out the if/when/what/where/how of going to graduate school.

*With regard to the Bentley graduate program site above, click on "Career Outcomes" and go to "What could my career look like with this degree" widget on page (this information can be found on all Bentley Graduate program pages)

MEET WITH YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR:

Your faculty advisor or department chair can provide you with insight and information about graduate school and the application process. If you decide to apply to grad school, you will need faculty recommendations so it is important to start speaking to your professors about your desire to go to grad school and next steps.

DURING JUNIOR YEAR, BEGIN LOOKING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOLS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND WHAT THEY OFFER:

<https://www.mba.com/explore-programs?nav=header>

<https://www.gradschools.com/>

<https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools.aspx>

<https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools>

<https://careeredge.bentley.edu/resources/business-school-buzz-book-2010-edition/>

These links allow you to research graduate schools by price range, ranking, GPA, and GMAT/GRE scores, just to name a few categories. This is a great way for you to narrow your choices and understand what different grad schools offer.

REGISTER TO TAKE THE GMAT DURING LATE JUNIOR/EARLY SENIOR YEAR:

<https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat>

You must register with MBA.com to take the GMAT. Test schedules and registration information can be found on the MBA.com site - sign up on the site to receive timely information.

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PREPARE TO TAKE GMAT:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/business/free-gmat-practice-test?ceid=tersh-nav-test-prep#!practice>

Strong scores are extremely important. The Princeton Review offers free GMAT prep resources - preparation & study are strongly recommended before taking the GMAT.

APPLY TO GRAD SCHOOLS IN FALL OF SENIOR YEAR:

<https://www.mba.com/how-to-apply?nav=header>

Each program will have step by step application processes, which will include providing personal statements and faculty recommendations. Note: application requirements will vary by grad school.

OTHER RESEARCH TIPS:

- Check out graduate school admissions websites or call admissions offices to inquire about when they'll be hosting virtual open houses.
 - Many schools will have "Incoming Class Profiles". These profiles will typically include information about GMAT scores (average/median/range), undergraduates' GPAs, sample undergraduate institutions, average # of years of work experience of the incoming class, and sample employers (if applicable). If this information is not available publicly on a school's website, an admissions officer should certainly be able to share this with you or give you some guidelines. This is critical, so you can make sure you generally have the qualifications a program is seeking.
 - Schools should also have placement data for their recent classes (average compensation information, sample employers, etc.). If this information is not available publicly on a school's website, an admissions officer should be able to share it with you. This is also critical, so you can evaluate whether the payoff for earning the degree is really worth it to you (in terms of the cost of attending, as well as the opportunity cost of not working full-time during that year). Also, keep in mind that the starting salaries that graduates with previous full-time work experience command will be much higher than the starting salaries of graduates without previous full-time work experience. Understanding the makeup of the class will be important in evaluating the placement data.
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