

IS A GRADUATE DEGREE RIGHT FOR ME?

Whether you're looking to evolve in your current role, or exploring opportunities to transition to a new field at work, advancing your education can be a great step forward. You may be considering a graduate degree to expand your knowledge and skills in pursuit of your next career milestone.

Let's take a quick look at a few highlights of pursuing a master's degree:

- Some graduate degrees at the master's degree level include Master of Arts (MA), Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science (MS)
- Master's degrees can typically be completed in around two years, depending on whether you attend full or part-time¹
- Graduate level education can provide more advanced knowledge and skills in your chosen field of study
- A graduate program can help you pursue your next-level education goals

REASONS TO CONSIDER

Have you come to a plateau in your career? Do you have goals for the future that require more advanced education or a more technical skillset? Maybe you want to gain a deeper understanding of how some aspect of your field works, or you simply want to learn something new.

When pursuing a graduate education, another option to consider is a graduate certificate. Certificate programs typically require less courses than a graduate degree program, allowing you to quickly upskill in your area of expertise or gain knowledge on a new topic.



If you're looking for an additional credential in a field such as human resource management, information security or accounting, but don't want to commit to a full graduate degree program, a certificate can be a great steppingstone. Should you decide to earn a master's degree later, your qualifying coursework may be able to be applied to your new program.²

FINDING YOUR FIELD OF STUDY

Many different fields offer graduate degrees, from business to technology to healthcare. Within the MBA path alone, you can choose a general MBA or one that is specialized in a particular area of interest such as big data, project management or finance. Other master's degree options include, but are not limited to, public administration, accounting, human resource management and IT management.

It's also important to note that some master's degree programs – in a STEM field, for example – may require students to hold an undergraduate degree in a relevant topic area such as STEM or business. This allows graduate students to build on their previous education and upskill in the areas that are most relevant.

A Master's in Business Administration (MBA) is a sort of hybrid degree. It's a professional degree in that it specifically helps prepare you for a career in business, but it is offered alongside more traditional graduate degrees. You can gain management and leadership skills as well as a well-rounded understanding of business – not to mention the ability to add “MBA” to your resume.

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Before you make the decision to go back to school, it only makes sense to analyze your current situation and future career goals. As a working adult student, you may seek a program that offers a strong set of resources, or flexibility, online learning, etc. The time it takes to complete your program may matter to you as well.

If you choose to pursue a graduate certificate, you may be able to finish in six months to a year¹, depending on how many courses you take per session and how many are required for your specific program. Pursuing a master's degree takes longer, but exactly how long depends on you and your program. If you're working full-time, you may prefer to pursue your graduate degree a bit more slowly, on a part-time basis.

If you have qualifying credits from another graduate school, you may be able to finish your program even faster. Military training or work experience may, in some cases, qualify you for a course waiver or two.³

Whichever path you take, when you find the right program for you, a graduate degree could represent a way for you to step on to the career path of your dreams.

THINKING ABOUT PURSUING YOUR GRADUATE EDUCATION?

To learn more about relevant programs of study at DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management, [click here](#)

Through an education partnership in conjunction with DeVry University, you have access to education benefits in support of your professional and life goals. To learn about transferring qualifying credits, tuition rate savings and more, contact your benefits manager or HR department.



¹Not including breaks. Assumes year-round, full-time enrollment.

²At the time of application to the next credential level, an evaluation of qualifying transfer credit will occur and the most beneficial outcome will be applied.

³Eligibility and application of course waivers varies based on the type of course waiver credit earned, the student's enrolled location and/or the student's state of residence. For more information, please refer to the Course Waiver section of the Keller academic catalog.