

Costs & Assistance

According to FinAid.org, the average cost of master's degree for students is **between \$30,000 and \$120,000**, depending on the university and program.

You have options!

- Fill out your **FAFSA!** You may qualify for federal loans or grants.
- Check your prospective school; some universities offer graduate financial aid.
- Some graduate programs offer **scholarships or paid fellowships** to assist with costs.
- If you're already working full-time, consider asking your employer. Some employers pay to send their employees through a graduate program.
- Talk to your bank or credit union about a **private loan.**



Learning Assistance Center
2510B French Hall West



UNIVERSITY OF 
Cincinnati

University of Cincinnati
Learning Assistance Center
2510B French Hall West
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
513-556-3244

Is graduate school the right choice for you?

Benefits of a Graduate Degree:

- Higher **salary** earnings
- More potential for **career advancement** and promotions
- **Competitive edge** over other candidates or coworkers

Drawbacks & Risks:

- **Expensive**; possibility of increased student loan debt
- More time spent in school and away from the workforce
- **Stress** and difficulty on personal life and relationships

Think of all the possibilities!

Almost all academic fields have graduate and doctorate coursework that you can pursue, such as accelerated and combination programs, as well as graduate certifications and other options.

Most graduate schools require students to take the **GRE**, or Graduate Record Exam, to be considered for admission. Or for more specific fields:

- Law - **LSAT**
- Medicine - **MCAT**
- Biz/Engineering - **GMAT**

Find Your Dream School:

Check out USnews.com for a comprehensive list and ranking of graduate schools and programs in the US. Compare schools and areas of study to see which will fit your future best.

Are you prepared?

When Applying to Graduate School:

- Complete and submit the **application** before the due date.
- Send in your college **transcripts**. Most graduate schools require a minimum 2.75-3.0 GPA.
- Complete and send **entrance exam** scores.
- Gather instructor **recommendations**.
- Graduate schools often require a **personal essay** or statement.
- Some schools may require a phone or in-person **interview**.

GPA under 3.0? Don't Panic!

To improve your chances, try to do well on entrance exams, retake low-scoring classes, and if necessary, explain your GPA on your application.