Why go to graduate school?

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There are different pathways to a graduate degree in engineering.


Data for 2013
There is a difference between MS and Ph.D. degrees

**Professional MS degree**
- Builds upon the principles and practices students learn in their undergraduate program
- Typically course-only and do not require a thesis
- Most common
- ~1 year

**Research MS degree**
- Requires the student complete a thesis that requires original research
- Increasingly rare
- ~2 years

**Ph.D.**
- Research-focused terminal degree
- Requires students complete a dissertation
- 4+ years
You have a BS in engineering, now what?
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BS in engineering → MS in engineering → Your dream job
You have a BS in engineering, now what?

- BS in engineering
- MS in engineering
- Ph.D. in engineering
- Your dream job
You have a BS in engineering, now what?

BS in engineering → Ph.D. in engineering → Your dream job
So, why should you consider going to graduate school in engineering?

Gain a competitive advantage

Advance your career

Follow your passion
Graduate degrees are increasingly important in STEM fields

Educational attainment, by type of occupation: 2017

Engineers with a graduate degree have higher mean salaries

Median salaries for S&E highest degree holders, by level of and years since highest degree: 2017

Engineers with graduate degrees participate in all employment sectors.

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<th>If you enjoy constantly learning and doing research, a Ph.D. may be for you</th>
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<tr>
<td>It is a myth that a Ph.D. is only good if you want to be a professor</td>
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<td>Some jobs require that you have a Ph.D.</td>
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<td>• Academia and National Laboratories</td>
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<td>• Advanced technology companies</td>
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<td>Your research advisor matters more than the name of the institution</td>
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<td>Your current area of study does not dictate what you have to do in your Ph.D.</td>
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<td>The research you do for your Ph.D. thesis does not dictate what you do for the rest of your life. In a Ph.D. you “learn to learn”</td>
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<td>You should not pay “out of pocket” for a Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Getting a Ph.D. is hard. There is an opportunity cost, and it can be emotionally exhausting. But, it can also be extremely rewarding.</td>
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