Why go to graduate school?

Paulina Jaramillo
Professor of Engineering and Public Policy
There are different pathways to a graduate degree in engineering.
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?

BS in engineering → Your dream job
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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

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.

If you are thinking about pursuing a Ph.D., here are some things to keep in mind

If you enjoy constantly learning and doing research, a Ph.D. may be for you

It is a myth that a Ph.D. is only good if you want to be a professor

Some jobs require that you have a Ph.D.
  • Academia and National Laboratories
  • Advanced technology companies

Your research advisor matters more than the name of the institution

Your current area of study does not dictate what you have to do in your Ph.D.

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”

You should not pay “out of pocket” for a Ph.D.

Getting a Ph.D. is hard. There is an opportunity cost, and it can be emotionally exhausting. But, it can also be extremely rewarding.