



CRA-W

Computing Research Association
Women

Is Graduate School For You?

So many career options in computing!

- Software Engineer, Software QA Tester, Software Project Manager, Human-Factors Designer...
- Systems developer, application developer, web developer, game developer...
- Database administrator, network systems administrator ...
- IT sales professional, IT trainer, technical author...
- Teacher, Professor....
- Research scientist, entrepreneur...

So many contexts!

Why consider graduate school?

- You want to solve big and important problems
- You love to be creative and want a lot of independence and control over the choice of problems you address
- You want to make important and long-lasting contributions to the field
- You would enjoy being an expert on a particular area in computer science
- Starting salaries for Bachelor's degrees are high; starting salaries for M.S. are often higher
- Your chosen career (e.g., professor or research scientist) requires it

(OVER)



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How is graduate school different from college?

Activities: all CS classes vs. variety of classes in different subjects

Daily schedule: flexible hours & open-ended deadlines vs. all course deadlines

Deliverables: research contributions, papers, posters, presentations, proposal, & dissertation in addition to exams/class projects

Modes of working: innovating, experimenting, presenting, & writing vs. studying, absorbing, & solving known problems

Evaluation of success: research contributions & publications in addition to exam scores & project grades

Typical Graduate School Timeline			
Year 1	Take Graduate Level Courses	Identify Research Advisor	Join Research Group
Year 2	Take More Graduate Level Courses	Take Ph.D. Exams	Complete 1st Mentored Research & Paper
Complete M.S. Degree			
Year 3	Identify Specific Ph.D. Topic	Complete Preliminary Ph.D. Research & Paper	Draft Ph.D. Proposal
Year 4	Defend Proposal	Complete More Research	Write Research Papers
Year 5/6	Complete More Research	Write Research Papers	Write & Defend Dissertation
Complete Ph.D. Degree			

For additional information, see our info sheets on:

- Master's or Ph.D.?
- How Do I Successfully Apply to Graduate School?