



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.
- You want the opportunity to solve more complex problems and have more responsibility from the start at a new job.
- Your chosen career (e.g., Professor or Research Scientist) requires it.

How is graduate school different from college?

	Graduate School	College
Courses	all CS	a variety in different subjects
Daily Schedule	flexible hours & open-ended deadlines	course deadlines
Deliverables	research contributions, papers, posters, presentations, proposal, & dissertation	exams/class projects
Modes of Working	innovating, experimenting, presenting, & writing	studying, absorbing, & solving known problems
Evaluation	research contributions & publications	exam scores & project grades

(OVER)



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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?

Or if you're already a grad student, apply to attend CRA-W Grad Cohort!



<http://cra.org/cra-w/grad-cohort-workshop/>

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