



CRA-W

Computing Research Association
Women

Is Graduate School For You?

So many career options in computing!

- Software Engineer, Software Tester, 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! Academia, Government, Industry (both tech and non-tech), NGOs.

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 Master's and Ph.D.'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 |

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(OVER)

| 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!



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

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