



Why graduate school?



I am still working on my bachelor's degree...

Why should I think about a graduate degree now?

The sooner you learn about your future educational opportunities, the better prepared you are.

The Office of Graduate Studies found that too many of our Seniors said that they:

- Regretted their major choice and wished they had picked a different major
- Doubted they could find a meaningful career with their degree
- Did not know what kind of jobs were available in their career field
- Felt that they knew too little and too late about the advantages of graduate degrees
- Felt academically and financially unprepared to pursue a graduate degree.

In short, we
learned that we
need to help
students to:

- Explore early-on and in-depth future career possibilities
- Select the right major for those future careers
- Determine whether an advanced degree is needed for their career goals, and
- Leverage their undergraduate years to prepare academically and financially for advanced degrees
- Know that it's *never too early or too late* to prepare for graduate studies
- Develop a sense of entitlement that empowers them to pursue the opportunities that best secure their future success

Resist the Imposter Syndrome because...



You're braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem, and
smarter than you think.



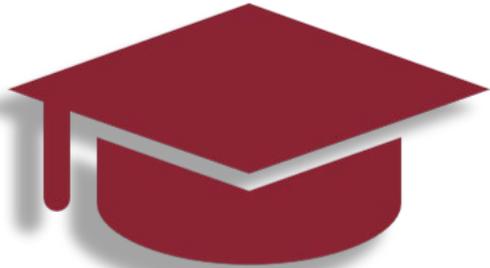
How can you dream big, if you don't know yet what to dream about?

How can you achieve your dreams, if you don't know the pathway to reach them?

Put another way:

How can we help you avoid the worst jobs in the world and help you find the best?

The first step is to learn about the different types of Post-baccalaureate/Advanced degree options.



Degree Type	Average Time-to-Degree	Expected Type of Bachelor's Degree
Teaching Credential	1 year	All
Masters of Science (MS)	2 years	Science/Technology/Engineering/Math
Masters of Art (MA)	2 years	Social Sciences & Humanities
Juris Doctor (law degree)	3 years	All
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)	3 years	Education
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	4-6 years	All
Doctor of Medicine (MD)	7-11 years	Sciences, Nursing, English, Economics

What are the Benefits?

Practical Reasons

- ❑ Increased earning potential
- ❑ Increased job opportunities & choice
- ❑ Increased job security
- ❑ Change career path/switch professions

Master's Degrees are Valuable!

- **The requirement for a Master's Degree is growing** across most industries and professions for both entry level and advancement.
- California has a shortage of MA degree-holding workers; the **demand is higher than the supply.**
- Those with MA degrees **get jobs faster** and **retain employment** at a higher rate during economic downturns (such as the recent pandemic).
- They also **advance further and faster** in their fields.
- And for those wishing to make a career-change, MA degrees create opportunities to **switch fields** and **pursue entirely new career paths.**

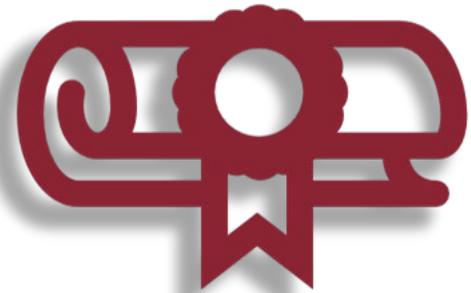
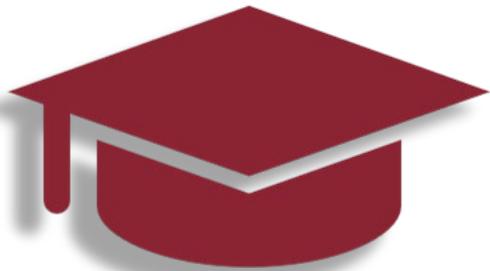
Master's Degrees are Lucrative!

Is the Master's degree worth your time and money?

- The average Chico State MA program is 30 units, takes just over 2 years to complete, and costs on average less than \$20,000 in tuition.
- **The average salary for those with a master's degree is \$80,223** or about \$15,000 more per year than those with bachelor's (usnews.com 2020).*
- That represents a 30% average increase in salary earnings each year.
- Over the average career span, **that can amount to \$650,000 to \$1 million more in earnings** (depending on your field).

* (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/paying/articles/is-graduate-school-worth-the-cost>)

Differences in Average Earnings Bachelor's v. Master's Degrees



Degree Type	Median Average Wages with Bachelor's Degree	Median Average Wages with Master's Degree
Business Manager	\$62,000	\$ 80,000
Civil Engineering	\$83,000	\$101,000
Graphic Designer	\$42,000	\$52,000
Biology	\$56,000	\$ 96,000
Social Service Manager	\$50,000	\$ 65,000
Computer Science	\$83,000	\$100,000
Secondary School Teacher	\$45,000	\$56,000

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20110817006495/en/CareerBliss-Data-Reveals-Top-10-Jobs-Master%E2%80%99s>

<https://www.goodcall.com/news/how-much-more-can-you-make-with-a-masters-degree-01529/>

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/should-i-get-a-masters-degree.htm#Healthcare%20and%20social%20service>

What are the Other Benefits?

Emotional & Intellectual Reasons

- ❑ Pursue your passion/Find meaning in your work
- ❑ Tackle the big questions in science and society
- ❑ Engage in high-level research
- ❑ Engage with like-minded peers and colleagues
- ❑ A chance to explore if you don't know what else to do
- ❑ Attain Status and Respect
(Only 9% of U.S. population holds a Master's Degree; Only 3% have a Ph.D.)

How to Decide if an Advanced Degree is For you?



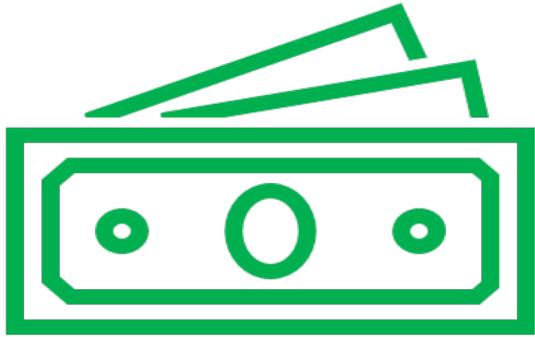
Question those you know:

- Ask your professors, staff, and graduate student peers about their career paths.
- Why did they choose to pursue an advanced degree?
- How did they prepare?
- What were their biggest challenges? What are their biggest rewards?
- If they had to do it over again, would they?
- What's the best advice they can give you?

Next Steps: How to Prepare



- ❑ **Up your academic game:** Increase your effort in your courses to learn more and improve grades
- ❑ **Develop your skills:** Student Learning Center, REACH, Chico Stem Connections, Adelante, and Cultural Affinity Groups (like STARS, CCLC, Office of Tribal Relations)
- ❑ **Pursue academic/professional development opportunities:** Research opportunities, Teaching, Lab, and Mentoring Assistantships, Student Research Competitions, Professional Conferences and Associations, Intriguing Internships and Campus Employment in areas related to your career interests.
- ❑ **Research funding and financial aid:** Explore opportunities with the Financial Aid Office and the Office of Graduate Studies
- ❑ **Discover pathways to the best degree and career path for you:** Explore opportunities with our Career Center staff and on their website; seek out information from U.S. Dept of Labor & California Employment Development Dept.



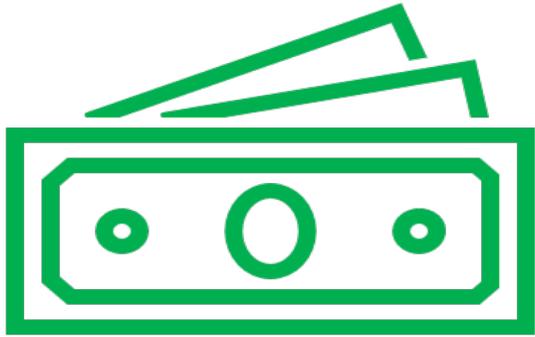
Money for Graduate School

Departmental Scholarships & Discretionary Funds

Teaching & Research Assistantships

Campus Employment (CSU and CSE)

Stipends & Awards (Adelante, SARC, and others)



Money for Graduate School



How to Find Out More About Career Possibilities?

Explore Resources:

Great sources to explore possible careers, educational requirements, salaries, growth potential, etc.:



[Department of Labor
Occupational Handbook](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>



[California Labor
Market Guide](https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides)

<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/occguides>



[O*Net Online](https://www.onetonline.org/)

<https://www.onetonline.org/>



[CSU Graduate
Programs](https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/graduate)

<https://www2.calstate.edu/attend/graduate>



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

[UC Graduate
Programs](https://graduate.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/degree-search/index.php)

[https://graduate.universityofcalifornia.edu/
admissions/degree-search/index.php](https://graduate.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/degree-search/index.php)

*All professions have **national associations**; they can be your best source of career information. Ask your professors or search for “National Association of [your discipline]. Here’s an example of some great information from the American Institute of Biological Sciences: <https://www.aibs.org/careers/>

Find Additional Help and Opportunities

Explore Campus Resources:



[Adelante](https://www.csuchico.edu/adelante/)

<https://www.csuchico.edu/adelante/>



[CSC²](https://www.csuchico.edu/stemconnections/)

<https://www.csuchico.edu/stemconnections/>



[Chico State Graduate Programs Brochure](https://www.csuchico.edu/graduate-studies/programs/index.shtml#ag)

<https://www.csuchico.edu/graduate-studies/programs/index.shtml#ag>



[Chico State Office of Graduate Studies](https://www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies/)

<https://www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies/>



[Chico State Career Center](https://www.csuchico.edu/careers/)

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The Wayfinders Mentoring Program

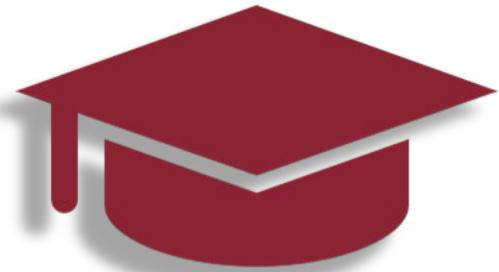
- Graduate students mentor and support sophomores, juniors, and seniors to complete undergraduate education and prepare for graduate school.
- A supporting hub of 10 students participate in guided career exploration, workshops, and speaker events.
- **Paid Mentor positions**

The Outreach Ambassadors Program

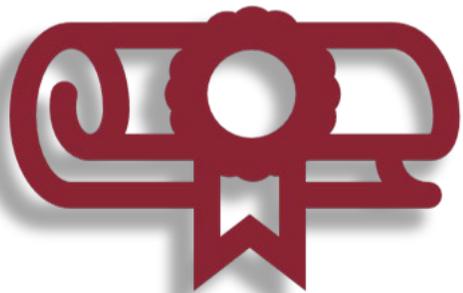
- Coordinators and Ambassadors promote Adelante's resources and graduate education opportunities across Chico State.
- Help plan workshops, speaker events, or give presentations about your experience in college and preparing for graduate school.
- **Paid positions/stipends**

The Summer Research Program

- Build your research experience and develop your CV by working with a faculty member on an exciting research project over the summer.
- This Adelante program is open to undergraduates and graduate students.
- **Student stipends**



Graduate Programs at Chico State



Program	Due Date	Program	Due Date
Agricultural Education	July 1 st	History	April 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)
Anthropology	January 10 th	Interdisciplinary Studies	May 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)
Art (MA & MFA)	March 1 st (FA) October 1 st (SP)	Kinesiology	April 1 st (FA) October 1 st (SP)
Biology	March 2 (FA) October 1 st (SP)	Mathematics Education	June 1 st (FA)
Business Admin	March 1 st (FA) September 16 th (SP)	Nursing	May 10 th (FA)
Communication Science and Disorders	January 15 th	Nutritional Science	March 1 st (FA) October 1 st (SP)
Communication Studies	June 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)	Political Science	June 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)
Computer Science	April 1 st	Psychology	February 15 th (FA)
Education	May 1 st (FA) December 1 st (SP)	Public Admin	April 1 st (FA) October 1 st (SP)
English	March 1 st (FA) September 16 th (SP)	Social Sciences	May 15 th (FA) October 1 st (SP)
Environmental Science	March 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)	Social Work	January 15 th
Geological Sciences	March 1 st (FA) November 1 st (SP)	Teaching International Languages	July 1 st (FA) December 2 nd (SP)



Get going!
Get help!

graduatestudies@csuchico.edu
www.csuchico.edu/graduatestudies

Apply to graduate programs using the Cal State Apply Application



Personalize your statement in 2-3pgs. Show them where you were, where you are, and where you are going.



Conquer that writing sample. With the help of others, reread, review, revise your best essay.



Prepare 2-3 letters of rec. Ask professors and supervisors early and make it easy for them to submit.



Don't sweat the test. Take advantage of fee waivers for the GRE and participate in free workshops.

Chico State Office of Graduate Studies



Contact Us for information, assistance, and advice.
Our mission is to help you find your path forward to
your best options and opportunities for life-long success.

We can help you discover:

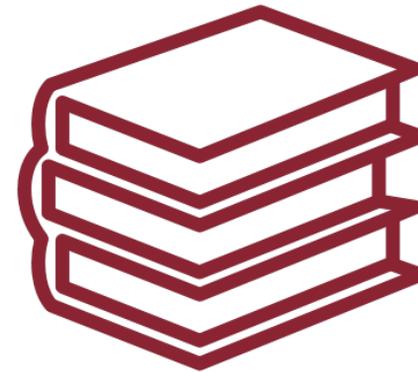
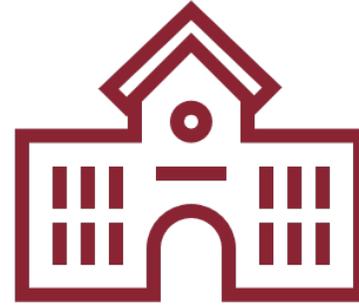


- How to help you avoid the worst jobs in the world and find your dream job instead
- What are the different types of advanced graduate degrees
- What a graduate degree can do for you
- What you can do now to start exploring and preparing for graduate school in the future

Additional Slides for Your Information:

Graduate school *is* for you!

- Pursue your **passion**
- Switch majors to **redirect your career path**
- Achieve **career advancement & stability**
- Increase your **earning potential**
- Grow your **network**



Myths About Graduate School



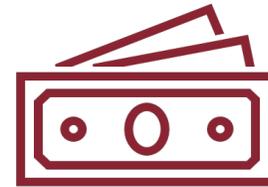
I need at least a 3.5 GPA to apply and get accepted.

Some programs require a minimum GPA; however, they emphasize your last 60 units GPA. If you can demonstrate growth in areas needing development, graduate programs are likely to give you a chance. In other words, they will see how you are rising through your academic journey.



I need a high GRE score for graduate school.

Most of our graduate programs are don't require the GRE! Graduate programs take a holistic look at your application, encompassing qualifications such as your work and research experience, and your personal statement.



Scholarships and financial aid aren't offered to grad students.

Many financial resources exist only for graduate students—teaching assistantships and research stipends, for instance. Some are program-specific, such as Title IV-E for Social Work programs, while others are open to all, such as the CSU, Chico Graduate Equity Fellowship Program. Still, your employer may also be able cover the cost of graduation.

Myths About Graduate School



I am not smart enough for graduate school.

Imposter syndrome alert! Do not begin to sell yourself short! Spend time with your professors and advisors - they will help you see your potential. Work on a résumé to reflect on your journey and visualize how far you will go.



I applied before and didn't get in. I am "just not good enough."

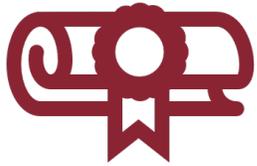
Get up and dust yourself off. When you are ready, learn what needs improvement by asking for feedback. Use the gap year to continue building your application—and your resiliency! Once you are in grad school, you'll see that most everyone has been denied at some point.



I would only do research and write a thesis/dissertation.

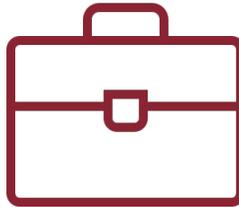
Grad school is a lot of reading and writing. But just like your undergrad, grad school contains assignments, projects, and discussions. Many programs even require a form of field work or a practicum—i.e., hands on training.

Myths About Graduate School



My graduate degree must match my bachelor's degree.

You can continue your current path or choose a different one. That is, you can apply to a program that is different, but similar to your undergrad major. Many graduate programs accept students that majored in a variety of disciplines, because you bring a unique perspective. Some even prefer it!



A graduate degree will not do much for me in today's job market.

Earning a graduate degree will boost your earning potential and strengthen your employability. In fact, more and more well-paying jobs are preferring candidates who have a graduate degree. And in some specific career paths, it's essential.



I will not have a social life in graduate school.

Although graduate school is filled with reading and writing, there is plenty of time for a social life. You will develop deeper relationships with professors than in undergrad. Your cohort members will become great friends. And conferences will be a great way to mingle and build your network with researchers from all over the world!