GRADUATE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

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• Ask questions in Q&A – responses are visible to everyone, review responses before asking question

• Program information: https://gograd.ku.edu/portal/prog_website

• If unable to find information or have additional questions, email: graduateadm@ku.edu
• Deciding whether to go to graduate school

• What graduate school looks like

• Resources
A graduate degree may be required for your desired professional field

- Graduate degree often required in the fields of:
  - Business
  - Education
  - Healthcare and social service
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- For more information on specific occupations, visit:
A graduate degree may improve your career and potential earnings

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022

- Median usual weekly earnings
- Unemployment rate

- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree
- Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma
- Less than a high school diploma

Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
A graduate degree may improve your employment stability

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022

Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
A graduate degree may increase your professional options and networking opportunities

- Opportunities for networking through:
  - Classmates
  - Faculty
  - Assistantship
  - Research
  - Internships/practicums
  - Professional organizations
A graduate degree may nurture your intellectual curiosity and spark passion for you to impact social change

• Opportunity to:
  ➢ Immerse yourself in specific area of interest
  ➢ Contribute to ideas and conversations that influence society

• Opportunity to participate in and share research, often with funding; examples at KU:
  ➢ PhD student in Economics studying birth outcomes for Physicians
  ➢ KU graduate student research highlights
  ➢ Capitol Graduate Research Summit
  ➢ 3-Minute Thesis Competition

Should you work first or immediately enroll in graduate school?

• Career goals
  ➢ Will you need work experience? What kind (full-time, assistantship, internship, etc.)?
  ➢ Do you need work experience to get the most out of your graduate program?

• Program and degree-level
  ➢ Are you interested in a master’s or doctoral degree?
  ➢ Are you interested in research or a professional degree?
What kind of financial and time investments are involved?

• Funding and costs
  ➢ How will you fund your program?
  ➢ How much are you willing to invest?

• Time commitment
  ➢ How long should you estimate it will take to complete your program?
Graduate School is Discipline Focused

• Participate in hands-on training
• Small class sizes
• Gain expert knowledge in a subject area and develop specialized skills
  ➢ Masters
  ➢ Doctoral
Graduate School is Student-Centered

• **Original Research, Creative Work, Practice**
  ➢ Investigate original research question
  ➢ Create original art, music, literature, etc.
  ➢ Deepen knowledge and innovate applications of knowledge

• **Supervisors, advisors, and committee**
  ➢ Professional programs may have dedicated advisors (staff and faculty)
  ➢ Common research interests
  ➢ One-on-one interactions—do your personal work styles mesh?
  ➢ Research group dynamics

7 Steps to Finding the Right Advisor – APA.org 2017
Milestone Exams and Theses/Dissertations

• Milestone exams
  ➢ Qualifying exams
  ➢ Comprehensive exams
    ❖ Oral
    ❖ Written
  ➢ Final Defense
    ❖ Public presentation, performance, installation
    ❖ Oral exam with committee

• Written
  ➢ Thesis vs non-thesis
  ➢ Dissertation, capstone project, performance, or other culminating effort
  ➢ May include original materials (e.g. maps, works of art, musical scores, etc.) in addition to data.
Time Investment

Unlike undergraduate courses, research and creativity do not necessarily run on a semester time-scale, nor are there clear grades associated with progress.

- Full-time (MS ~1-2yrs; PhD ~4-5 yrs)
  - 6-9 hours of coursework per semester
  - May include 20 hrs per week in Assistantship
  - Plus time for research, writing, practicing, etc.
  - May or may not include travel

- Part-time (extended time to degree)
  - 3-6 hours coursework per semester
  - Plus time for research, etc.
  - Often while working full-time job.

- Work-life balance is key to success!
Mentorship Networks

- Multi-mentor systems
  - Personalized
  - Well-rounded feedback
  - Opens doors to additional connections and opportunities
  - Availability

- Types of Mentors
  - Peers
  - Professionals
  - Alumni
  - Friends and family
  - Community Leaders
The **Jayhawk Career and Student Alumni Networks** give students and alumni access to career resources, jobs, programming, events and connections at every stage of their career.

**Career Networking**
Online and in person events for students and alumni geared towards career networking and outcomes

**KU Mentoring Plus**
Mentor matching program for students and alumni to create connections, provide professional insight and opportunities

**Industry Engagement**
"One KU" approach to industry partnerships with KU Endowment, Research, Career Centers

**Continuing Education**
Curate existing learning opportunities from KU campus partners including KU Edwards Campus and professional schools

**Career Success & Outcomes**
Highlight success stories of Jayhawks across varied industries and professions

**Professional Development**
Career content for all KU Alumni including webinars, hands on workshops and housed in a content library
Student Alumni Network connects students to:

- More than 350,000 alumni
- Opportunities on and off campus, and
- Virtually
- KU traditions
- Classmates

To enjoy all the benefits of your FREE SAN membership, follow these five steps:

1) Download the KU alumni app
2) Click the “Log in” tile and activate your membership
3) Use the app all year to access free resources and check into SAN events
4) Attend our SAN events throughout the semester
5) Visit kualumni.org for all the latest campus news and information
KU MENTORING: CONNECTING KU STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS

One Jayhawk connection can change your world.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

13,000+ Total Users

8,000+ Alumni

4,000+ Students

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONNECTIONS AND SERVICES
Help Topics:
• Applying & Navigating Graduate School
• Career Industry Trends
• Internships & Job Search Strategies
• Mock Interviews
• Parenting & Career
• Work-Life Balance
• Job Shadowing
• Diversity & Inclusion
• Racial, Gender, and Sexual Identity in the Workplace
• Multi-Generational Workplaces

Additional Benefits:
• Job Board for Experienced Job Seekers
• Affinity Groups
• Discussion Board
Learn more at Explore Graduate School Week: https://gograd.ku.edu/portal/gradschoolweek-March2024

• Program-specific sessions
• 12 pm CDT, Wednesday, March 6: Application and Admission Process
• KU Alumni Association: [https://kualumni.org/](https://kualumni.org/)
  ➢ Jayhawk Career Network: [https://kualumni.org/programs/jayhawk-career-network/](https://kualumni.org/programs/jayhawk-career-network/)
  ➢ Student Alumni Network: [https://kualumni.org/programs/student-alumni-network/](https://kualumni.org/programs/student-alumni-network/)

• KU Career Center: [https://career.ku.edu/graduate-school](https://career.ku.edu/graduate-school)

• KU Engineering Career Center: [https://ecc.ku.edu/students/pursue-grad-school](https://ecc.ku.edu/students/pursue-grad-school)

• Program costs: [http://affordability.ku.edu/](http://affordability.ku.edu/)

• Graduate program profiles: [https://ogs.ku.edu/program-profiles](https://ogs.ku.edu/program-profiles)

• Graduate Admissions: [https://gradapply.ku.edu/](https://gradapply.ku.edu/)
• Bureau of Labor Statistics

• Idealist.org:  https://www.idealist.org/grad-schools/blog/5-good-reasons-grad-school

• Peterson’s Guide to Graduate School:
  https://www.petersons.com/blog/a-guide-for-potential-grad-students-should-you-go-to-graduate-school/
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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