

[SHOULD I APPLY FOR GRADUATE STUDY OR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION?]

An increasing number of Canadian university degree graduates are considering graduate school, professional education or post-degree certificates and diplomas. Reasons for this may be that:

- Students are inspired by their studies in undergraduate programs. At the same time, they discover that though we learn more all the time, questions remain, and there is more to learn.
- Additional education can lead to new career and academic opportunities.

After you complete a degree, you may embark on graduate study or professional education at any point in your life journey.

- Apply during your last year of university

OR

- Apply after you have been in the work force for a short time

OR

- Apply after you have been in the work force for several years

USE THE FOLLOWING FOUR STEPS TO HELP YOU DECIDE:

Take time to reflect. 

Consider the following:

- Your skills, abilities and interests
- Life space and significant relationships (including your age, partner, children, health of family members, your own health)
- Career goals
- Learning goals
- Geography (where you choose to live)
- Labour market trends
- Finances

These factors may have effect your educational plans. Taking time to reflect will not only help you assess where you are now, but also help you begin to set a course for the future.

For assistance with career planning, you can make an appointment at MacEwan's Student Resource Centre on your campus: www.MacEwan.ca/SRC

The following publications developed by the Government of Alberta may also be helpful for education and career planning:

- Multiple Choices: www.alis.alberta.ca/pdf/cshop/MultipleChoices.pdf
- Assessing You: www.alis.gov.ab.ca/pdf/cshop/AssessingYou.pdf

Gather information. 

Speak with MacEwan faculty and program advisors.

- Contact information for instructors and advisors are on the MacEwan website: www.MacEwan.ca
- If you are an alumnus, call faculty members you knew. If they are no longer available, try contacting current instructors at MacEwan.
- Remember that instructors have taken the route of graduate study. They may share both knowledge and experience with you.
- Before you call or meet with faculty members, prepare a list of questions about graduate study or professional education, so you can make good use of your meeting time.

Research educational programs.

- Check out the institutions and programs of interest: read university calendars, visit websites, and attend information sessions and open houses.
- See the brochure in this series entitled RESEARCHING [Considering Graduate School-Research Your Options].



Speak with professionals who come from the educational background you are interested in.

- Make appointments to interview professionals. If you are employed after completing an undergraduate degree, you may encounter individuals who have an interesting job at your workplace. For example, you might discover that someone who has the role of a manager, a consultant or board member, has a master's or PhD degree.
- Arrange meeting times when they will not be distracted (perhaps a lunch appointment).
- Prepare questions about his/her education and career paths.
- Request permission to record the discussion or to take notes for your own future reference.

Occupational information may be helpful. Check the following resources:

- MacEwan Student Resource Centre: www.MacEwan.ca/SRC
- MacEwan Library: www.library.MacEwan.ca
- Free Government of Alberta Resources:
 - > Making Sense of Labour Market Information: www.alis.gov.ab.ca/pdf/cshop/LabourMarketInfo.pdf
 - > Alberta Occupational Profiles: www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo
- If you are interested in a specific profession, look up professional association websites. Associations list the type of education required to attain credentials within certain fields. Sometimes they include career information and job postings – a great source of information about the type of work done in a particular profession.
- Professional association websites for Canada and for provinces: Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials: www.cicic.ca/en/profess.aspx?sortcode=2.19.21.21

After you gather and reflect on the information, decide.

- Think holistically when you choose programs. Consider your interests, career aspirations, goals, possible relocation, finances and family concerns.
- Furthering your education may be challenging, yet exhilarating.
- Feel positive and excited by this decision, or the journey ahead may be difficult.
- Making the choice can be motivational.

If you decide that you will apply for further study, act now.

- Do more research into specific educational programs.
- Prepare applications: Consider balance between the number of programs you apply to and the time and money required to do so. Each application requires a fee. At the same time, applying to more than one institution gives you more options. If you do not get into one program, you may be accepted into another.
- Plan for your educational journey for approximately the next two to four years.

CHECK OUT THE OTHER BROCHURES IN THIS SERIES:

- RESEARCHING [Considering Graduate School-Research Your Options]**
- APPLYING [Applying for Graduate School or Professional Education]**
- FINANCING [Financing Your Graduate School or Professional Education Degree]**
- WRITTEN STATEMENT [Preparing Your Written Statement for Graduate School or Professional Education]**
- RESUME [Preparing Your Resume, CV or Portfolio for Application to Graduate School or Professional Education]**
- STANDARDIZED EXAMS [Writing Standardized Examinations for Your Application to Graduate School or Professional Education]**
- INTERVIEWS/AUDITIONS [Preparing for your Interview or Audition for Graduate School or Professional Education]**
- CHECKLIST [Researching and Applying for Graduate School or Professional Education, A Checklist]**

[FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL LIAISON AT GRADSCHOOLLI@MACEWAN.CA OR 780-633-3405]

NOTE: THERE ARE SOURCES OF INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT IS LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT. IN ADDITION, MACEWAN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE CONTENT ON WEBSITE LINKS.