Is Grad School Right for Me?

Making an Informed Decision

Reasons to Go to Graduate School

Professional Goals

- You have a specific ideafor a career or field in mind, and you need additional schooling to get there
- Knowing what you want out of the program, and letting it serve as your motivation

Social Impact

- You want a program that will align with your values and the impact you're looking to make
- What are your personal goals, and will a grad program help me get there?

Passion & Focus

- Grad school goes more in depth on common topics, and this deep dive takes time and commitment to learning
- Being genuinely interested in and passionate about the course content is helpful

Successful Graduate Students Will:

Network

- Take advantage of you built-in network of peers, faculty, and alumni
- Attend professional development events and venture outside your corner of campus

Take Leadership Roles

- The Luskin school has fellowship opportunities, teaching assistant positions, student groups, and various research centers in search of change makers
- Be proactive in teaching and sharing your experiences as you continue to learn

Be Proactive

- Be fully engaged in the program, and be militant about your schedule

The Cost and Time Commitment

Have a Financial Plan

- Fully research the available fellowships and ad opportunities at each school you apply to
- Paying back a loan can be daunting, so have a good sence of the field and opportunities will open to you upon graduation

Find Your Right Balance

- The UCLA MPP is a full-time, in-person program
- You want to balance your personal life, your academics, and your financial well-being
- Be sure to commit to the program fully, and ask yourself if you have the bandwidth to make the most out of the program

UCLA MPP Tuition and Fees

Cost of Attendance (AY 26-27)

- In-state, UCSHIP: $36,314.19
- In-state, waived: $28,797.21
- NR, UCSHIP: $49,432.19
- NR, waived: $41,915.21

Funding Opportunities

- Departmental Merit Awards
- Grad Division Awards
- Need-based awards
- Federal vs. provate loans

FEE NAME	RESIDENT	NONRESID...
Tuition	13,722.00	13,722.00
Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)	13,086.00	13,959.00
Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST)		12,245.00
Student Services Fee	1,344.00	1,344.00
UCGPC Fee	7.00	7.00
Graduate Writing Center Fee	23.14	23.14
Graduate Opportunities and Leadership Development (GOLD) Fee	39.00	39.00
Graduate Students Association Fee	38.25	38.25
UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UCSHIP)	7,516.98	7,516.98
Ackerman Student Union Fee	81.00	81.00
BruinGo Universal Access Transit Pass	36.39	36.39
Student Programs, Activities, and Resources Complex (SPARC) Fee	150.00	150.00
Student Seismic Fee	113.00	113.00
Wooden Center Fee	45.00	45.00
BruinFresh Fee	15.00	15.00
Continuing student total mandatory fees	**$36,216.76**	**$49,334.76**
Document Fee	97.43	97.43
New student total mandatory fees	**$36,314.19**	**$49,432.19**

Reasons NOT to Go to Graduate School

Unclear Career Goals

- Do not treat grad school like finding an undergrad program
- You should know what field you want to work in or a title you want to have

Peer Pressure

- Imposter syndrome is real! Everyone is at different stages of their lives and careers
- This is YOUR life, not your family's or your friends'

"I Just Need a Change"

- That change is not likely to be grad school
- Start small, and think through all of your options!

Negative Outcomes if Unprepared

A Lack of Direction and Preparedness Can Lead to Feeling Like:

- “This was a waste of time, and now I’m in debt’”
- “I didn’t get the education experience I wanted.”
- “I couldn’t complete the program because of funding.”
- “I’m struggling to keep up and feel unmotivated”

Determining Your Next Step

- Take advantage of your resources!
- Research, and then research some more!
- Gather your application materials
- Make your financial plan
- Budget your personal time

Connect With Us!

Jake Maish
Director of Admissions and
Student Affairs
jake@luskin.ucla.edu

Ariana Rodriguez
Director of Recruitment and
Student Success
ariana@luskin.ucla.edu

Instagram: @uclapublicpolicy