Thinking about going to graduate school?

You probably have a lot of questions, such as "how will earning a graduate degree benefit me in the future?", or "how do I go about finding a graduate program?"

Graduate programs allow you to concentrate your studies in a single area. There are two levels of graduate degrees: the master's degree and the doctoral degree. In addition, graduate degrees are commonly described as being either professional or research.

An increasing number of institutions that offer graduate degrees are modifying their methods of presentation, allowing students who work full-time to pursue their degree on a part-time basis. In addition, institutions are now offering degree programs via distance learning or at off-site locations, allowing further flexibility for their students. Most research programs, however, require full-time student attendance for at least a portion of the program.

Source: GradSchools.com

Once you decide to go to graduate school, you will want to begin gathering information about schools and the kinds of programs they offer. When deciding what school to attend or what program you want to pursue, consider the following:

**Questions to ask about the Program:**
- Does the emphasis of the program meet your career and educational goals?
- What are the admissions criteria?
- Is financial assistance available?
- Does the program have a practical experience component (i.e. internships, CO-OP)?

**Questions to ask about the Facilities:**
- Are there available and extensive labs or other learning facilities?
- How comprehensive is the library?

**Questions to ask about the Faculty:**
- What is the student-faculty ratio?
- What are the depth, diversity, and availability of faculty?
Questions to ask about the Students:
- How many students are enrolled in the program and the number who complete the degree requirements?
- What type of jobs have students gone into after degree completion?

Additional Information:

Graduate School Tips
GradSchoolTips.com provides free information for students considering graduate school. The site contains information regarding graduate school interviews, letters of recommendation, and articles on graduate school admission.

Scholarship Help
ScholarshipHelp.org provides information for students interested in obtaining scholarships and gives advice on how to avoid scholarship scams.