



Ready Reference D-26

Types of Graduate School

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There are many different types of graduate education out there, and it can be quite confusing. This ready reference is here to help you differentiate the types of graduate school and decide which one is best for you.

Master's Degrees:

Starting off with the master's degrees, these degrees can typically be attained following completion of an undergraduate program and take anywhere between 1-2 years to complete. These degrees usually will offer a concentration and not just a broad understanding, (Ex. Master of Science in Aerospace Propulsion). Here are some of the most common types of master's degrees.

Master of Arts (MA):

This master typically correlates to areas of education, social science, communication, and the arts (photography, writing, painting).

TIP: Prepare to take the GRE and prepare a portfolio as well as writing sample.

Master of Science (MS):

Students in this program typically come from an area of interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is most common within CEAT at OSU, and it is advised that students have a correlation between this program and their undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Science to Master of Science). Due to the demanding scientific knowledge within this degree.

TIP: Concentrate on the STEM sections of the GRE and reach out to faculty.

Master of Business Administration (MBA):

As indicated, this master program is within the Business school and offers a range of education and concentrations. Students within this master's program learn important aspects of business operations, such as management, finance, marketing, and sales.

TIP: Build relationships with the professors and focus on the sections of the GMAT that align with your concentration. Take the GMAT as soon as possible!

Master of Education (MEd):

This degree is focused on preparing students for careers in the field of education. These degrees can be obtained if a student wishes to specialize in a specific area of the education industry, i.e. administration, counseling, or special education.

TIP: Focus on areas of GRE related to education. Take test and apply early!

To learn more about master's programs at OSU and gather more detailed information, visit the following link: <https://go.okstate.edu/graduate-academics/programs/masters/index.html>

Doctoral Degrees:

These degrees are the highest achievable education possible. Doctoral programs can range anywhere from 2-8 years to complete, depending on your desired profession. Doctorate degrees require the completion of both bachelor's and master's degrees. These are the types and sub-types of doctorate degrees.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):

Students obtaining this degree typically see a career in research or education at a university level. Generally, students in this program will be deeply involved with some type of research and may be a leader of a project. Common requirements for getting into a PhD program would be as follows:

- Letters of recommendation
- Letter of Intent from the student
- Resume or CV
- Test Scores (GRE)
- Writing samples

Professional Doctorate Degrees:

Professional degrees focus on preparing students for a career that requires extensive education and training. Students obtaining this degree are more narrowed towards professional careers versus academic careers. Research may be a part of the curriculum, but this degree will primarily be aimed towards real-life training. Below are some examples of professional doctorate degrees:

- DBA – Doctor of Business Administration
- MD – Doctor of Medicine
- EdD – Doctor of Education
- DPH – Doctor of Public Health
- PsyD – Doctor of Psychology
- DSW – Doctor of Social Work

Follow this link to learn more about doctorate programs at OSU:
<https://go.okstate.edu/graduate-academics/programs/doctoral/>

Both Master and Doctorate programs are very department dependent, and that means the requirements as well as the extensiveness of education can vary drastically. For example, earning a PhD in Engineering would be very different from earning an MD. Depending on your goals, the requirements to be considered for a PhD program can change as well.

See ready references D-18 and D-25 to learn more about the application process, as well as how to prepare, for graduate school.