

## Premier urban research institution

With nearly 60 doctoral degree programs, 139 master's degree programs and over 30 certificate, specialist and professional programs, Wayne State is one of the largest public graduate schools in the country. Excellence in academics and research has made Wayne State an internationally recognized institution.

Research expenditures top \$239 million annually, placing Wayne State among the top 50 public universities for research expenditures in the nation, according to the National Science Foundation. Recent additions to the university's research portfolio include the Perinatology Research Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which will provide \$125 million over 10 years to study maternal and child health, and the state of Michigan's NextEnergy Center, which will provide \$50 million to research alternative fuels to power the nation.

As Michigan's only urban, research university, Wayne State conducts critical research that continually advances the frontiers of knowledge and practice.

Situated in the heart of Detroit's University Cultural Center, the Wayne State campus gives students the freedom to explore a broad range of interests and possibilities. The university is within walking distance of more than a dozen museums and cultural attractions.

## The Admissions Process

Applying for admission to Wayne State's Graduate School is easy with our online application. To get started, simply visit [gradapply.wayne.edu](http://gradapply.wayne.edu) and follow the step-by-step directions to complete the form. Application packages vary by program but typically consist of an application, official transcripts, entrance exam test scores and letters of recommendation.

To ensure you receive a timely admission decision, please be sure your application package is complete and adheres to program deadlines available on the Web sites of each school and college. Please note: International applicants also should allow adequate time for visa processing.

The Office of Graduate Admissions processes all graduate applications except for the Doctor of Medicine (MD), Juris Doctor (JD), and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) programs. Persons interested in these programs should contact the Medical School, Law School or Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, respectively.

## What happens after I apply?

After you submit your application documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions, they will be reviewed by the department to which you are applying. Note that programs may require materials in addition to those needed by the Office of Graduate Admissions. These additional materials should be submitted directly to the program.

The department will review your application materials and will make a decision on acceptance into the program. You will receive official notification of the decision from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

If you submitted unofficial transcripts, your acceptance will be on a conditional basis. We must receive all of your official transcripts to complete the application process.

## Questions?

Feel free to call the Office of Graduate Admissions at **(313) 577-GRAD**, make an appointment to see us in the Welcome Center on main campus or visit us online at [gradadmissions.wayne.edu](http://gradadmissions.wayne.edu).



## Are you ready?

Seeking a graduate degree is one of the most exciting learning experiences you can have in your life. But the decision to go to graduate school requires careful consideration because of the time and funding needed to make your degree a reality. Take a look at these five questions before deciding if you are ready for graduate school.

### Why earn a graduate degree?

Most people earn an advanced degree based on one of these four factors:

- Fulfilling career goals
- Better compensation
- Staying marketable
- Making a career change

### When should you seek your degree?

Is it better to attend graduate school right after you complete your bachelor's degree, or is it better to gain some work/life experience first? According to Wayne State's Office of Graduate Admissions, what you choose depends on your professional and personal goals and work habits.

### What is the best graduate program for you?

There are two traditional categories of graduate degrees — master's and doctoral degrees. Wayne State also offers professional degrees and graduate certificates to help you achieve your goals.

### What is the best graduate school for you?

Some experts say your choice of a graduate school is much more important than your choice of an undergraduate school. Consider Wayne State, which has one of the largest graduate schools in the country as well as many nationally ranked programs.

### Can you afford graduate school?

It is crucial to look at the costs of graduate education and what a university can offer you. Wayne State provides \$23 million in financial aid to graduate students and many employers offer tuition assistance programs to ensure you can earn the degree you need.

## Make your choice: Master's or PhD

Knowing you want an advanced degree is an important first step. Choosing the right degree is just as important. Researching your area of interest will give you guidance on the degree you should pursue, but there are other considerations as well. Are you most excited by creating new knowledge through research or scholarship or by directly applying what is known to solve problems? Do you need to work while earning your graduate degree? What career would you like to pursue with your degree and what are the requirements of the position you would like? Doctoral programs are research focused, and although it's possible to hold a job while working on your doctoral degree, it's more challenging than for a master's degree. Master's programs are often designed to be more flexible for working students.

### What is involved in earning a master's degree?

Requirements to earn a master's degree vary by school, but generally include classes, an exam and a project. It will take one or two years to complete your degree, depending on your program and whether you attend full or part time. People working in the areas below generally have a master's degree.

- Engineer
- Businessperson
- Teacher at a community college

## What does it take to get a PhD?

A PhD requires breadth and depth of knowledge. You gain breadth through a year or two of coursework and may be asked to demonstrate this through a qualifying exam. You demonstrate depth — your command of a subsection of knowledge — through completion of a significant amount of research and a dissertation. People working in the areas below generally have a PhD

- University professor
- Research scientist
- Researcher in development or management
- Analyst (i.e., budget analyst, stock analyst, etc.)

## Wayne State's Graduate School

With nearly 60 doctoral degree programs, 139 master's degree programs and over 30 certificate, specialist and professional programs, Wayne State is one of the largest public graduate schools in the country. Many programs are nationally ranked.

Situated in the heart of Detroit's University Cultural Center, Wayne State is within walking distance of more than a dozen museums and cultural attractions. Affiliated with more than 40 institutions worldwide, Wayne State's outreach extends globally. Students can experience firsthand the challenges of working with multinational companies, roll up their sleeves to combat diseases in developing nations, research international conflict management and participate in many other international programs.



## **Write it Right**

### **Tips on Writing a Good Personal Statement for your Graduate School Application**

#### **Think of it as a “professional” statement**

It is important to outline your professional objectives in your personal statement. Be sure to include your professional accomplishments, including any research you have done, and explain what you know. Tell why you might be a stronger candidate for graduate school than any other applicant using the language professionals use in conveying this information.

#### **Answer the questions that are asked**

Be clear and specific to all questions asked on the application. For instance, if a university wants to know why you are applying to it rather than another school, do some research on what sets your preferred school apart from the rest. Importantly, don't be tempted to re-use your personal statement on all applications you submit; rather, be sure your answer fits the question being asked.

#### **Write well**

It is essential to use proper grammar and avoid typographical errors and clichés. As with any good writing effort, it is critical to focus on the opening paragraph to grab the reader's attention and create the framework for the rest of the statement. It also is important to adhere to word limits on your application.

#### **Avoid inappropriate subjects**

References to experiences or accomplishments in high school or earlier are not appropriate for a personal statement and should be excluded. Likewise, potentially controversial issues are best avoided.

#### **Five questions to think about**

- 1.** What are my career objectives and what skills have I developed that will help me achieve these objectives?
- 2.** Why is this the best program for me?
- 3.** How do my research interests and experiences fit the expertise of the faculty in the program?
- 4.** What has stimulated my interest and reinforced my conviction that I am well suited for the field (classes, readings, seminars, work or other experiences or conversations with people already in the field)?
- 5.** Are there any gaps or discrepancies in my academic record that should be explained (great grades but mediocre test scores, for example, or a distinct upward pattern to my GPA if it was only average in the beginning)?

This handout was adapted from information found on  
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/pw/p\\_perstate.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/pw/p_perstate.html).

## **Wayne State University**



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