

Graduate School
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Summary by Emily Woolley

Many people attend universities for undergraduate degrees because they seek the need for higher education or more career opportunities. After completion, it is expected that these graduates find jobs. However, many people wish to continue their education and attend graduate school.

Graduate schools can be very beneficial to undergraduates who are looking for wider career options. They can offer educational or professional degrees to enter certain careers, as it necessary to have a higher level of education for some professions. Acceptance to a graduate school has requirements such as recommendation letters, undergraduate preparation, and standardized testing. The textiles, merchandising, and design field has graduate school opportunities as well. It is possible to receive a Master of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, or Doctor of Philosophy in the field of TMD. These degrees have different requirements for fulfillment. Some TMD programs are fashion/textile design, textile science, fashion merchandising, historic textiles, cultural studies, and sustainability. The decision to attend graduate school is significant and it is necessary to consider many factors when picking a school. Some of these factors are the success and reputation of the professors, programs that are offered, and employment rates after graduation.

URI offers graduate programs that satisfy many careers. One program that is appealing for students interested in a business-oriented career is the MBA program. Lisa Lancellotta, the Coordinator for the URI MBA program, explains that this program is great for students interested in pursuing a career in business because it is intended for students who did not study business as undergraduate students and want to broaden their business skill set. People also choose to pursue an MBA because it can increase job opportunities and yearly salaries. The MBA program at URI offers many options for completion. One option is the one-year program that consists of an integrated curriculum with consulting projects, guest speakers, and site visits in Providence. There is also an evening program that is more flexible because it offers classes at night for students who are working and can only attend school part-time. The requirements for this program are similar to most graduate schools except that the standardized test can be waived if the URI student had an undergraduate GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Graduate school can be a necessary route for students to take because some professions require a graduate degree. On the other hand, graduate school just may be a helpful tool for students to expand knowledge and career opportunities. There are many graduate school options for students to explore and there are also many programs that can fulfill a student's needs.