What Is Graduate School?

Presented by James Luyendyk, PhD
Michigan State University

©2021
Graduate School Can...

- Be a rewarding and empowering experience
- Allow you to gain an entirely new knowledge base
- Lead to new opportunities

Before you start the application process, educate yourself about what graduate school is, the programs in which you are interested, and the job opportunities that are available for with the advanced degree.
Reasons to Consider Graduate School

- Strong desire to pursue graduate studies
- Pursue intellectual interests at an advanced level
- Benefits of higher degrees (Master's, PhD, MBA, etc.)
  - Higher salary and career advancement
  - More job options
  - Jobs with more responsibility

Most toxicology positions require advanced degrees
Expectations for Graduate Students

• Different from the undergraduate college experience

• Primary focus is acquiring skills to become an independent professional
  ▪ Some are purely technical (like a laboratory method)
  ▪ Some are intellectual (like critically analyzing a journal article)
  ▪ Some are new ways of thinking

• Move from being a consumer of knowledge to becoming a creator of knowledge

• Graduate school is a full-time job

• Student cost is minimal: most toxicology programs offer stipends and tuition support
Pathway Options

Consider your goals and explore the best options for you

• Master’s (research)
• Master’s (coursework)
• Certification in a professional area (new programs have emerged)
• PhD (research)
Additional Resources

- Faculty members
- Academic and research advisors
- SOT mentors
- Campus resources
- Online resources

Credits

We acknowledge the numerous SOT members who have developed the presentations on which these slides are based.
We encourage you to consider applying for a toxicology-related graduate program!

www.toxicology.org