

Planning Your Career (P199)	Graduate School Roadmap			
	First Year	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Lay the Foundation	_____			
Decisions: Career & Degree	_____ - - - - -			
Career-Focused Preparation	- - - - - _____			
Select Graduate Programs	_____ - - - - -			
Entrance Exams	- - - - - _____			
Prepare Applications	_____			

- Lay the Foundation. If you think you want to go to graduate school, you can get off to a good start by consulting with academic advisors to carefully plan your undergraduate degree, enroll in challenging courses and earn the best grades you can. Participate in student organizations and take on leadership roles. Investigate research opportunities, consider other co-curricular activities, and read about the entire graduate school decision-making, preparation and application process so you can set goals.
- Decisions: Career & Degree. The only really good reason to go to graduate school is because you have a true interest and commitment to a specific career and you must go to grad school to be employed in that field. To make well-informed decisions about potential careers you'll need to network, assess yourself, and explore careers by reading and by interviewing professionals. Enroll in P199 or P299 during your sophomore year. Research all of the degrees/licenses that could prepare you for a career in the field of interest to you.
- Career-Focused Preparation. Graduate schools prefer applicants who have career-relevant internship experiences - what kinds of experiences would be best for you? How much research experience should you get as an undergraduate? How much do GPA and entrance exam scores matter for admissions? The answers to these questions depend on the specific career and graduate degree you want to work toward.
- Select Graduate Programs. Identify programs by consulting directories and guidebooks. Narrow your list to reduce the total of your application fees and to make the time-consuming application process feasible.
- Entrance Exams. If your goal is to attend a psychology graduate program, it is very likely that you'll need to take the GRE General Test and possibly the Subject Test. Some programs don't require any exams.
- Prepare Applications. Your application packets will likely include application forms, a personal statement, 3 letters of recommendation, a transcript, a resume, financial aid forms, and possibly a curriculum vitae. Preparing and polishing this material is time consuming and important – you'll want to seek help!

For lots more information, read the "Graduate School" pages at www.indiana.edu/~PSYUGRAD