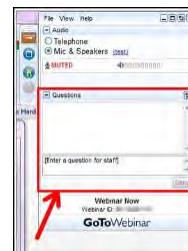




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<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/videos.html>

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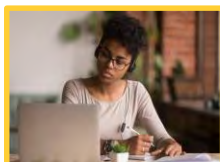
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We have a collection of career resources to support you during this global pandemic:



Professional
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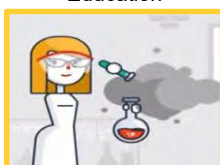
Virtual Career
Consultants



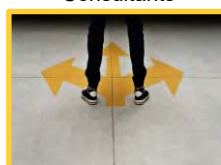
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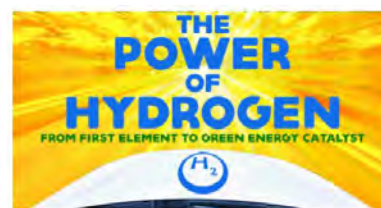
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Tips for Applying to Graduate School in Chemistry



Brian Gibney
 Professor of Chemistry, Brooklyn College and Member,
 Chemistry and Biochemistry Doctoral Faculties, CUNY



Blake Aronson
 Program Manager, Undergraduate Programs,
 American Chemical Society

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What is Graduate School About?

WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL ABOUT?

A Marathon, Not a Sprint

Creating tangible short-term goals helps you move forward, and a strong support team provides necessary boosts

Source: Liz Hozman, *7 Ways Earning a Ph.D. is Like Training for a Marathon*, Inside Higher Ed, <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/7-ways-earning-phd-training-marathon>



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WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL ABOUT?

Your Development in Graduate School



Develops you as a scientific thinker



Gives you practical hands-on lab skills



Grows your interdisciplinary knowledge



Trains your mind



Strengthens your soft skills



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WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL ABOUT?

Swiss Army Knife

Skills developed

- Lab skills
- Communication (oral and written)
- Teamwork and collaborative skills
- Research skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Independence and perseverance
- Networking, relationship development
- Time management and prioritization
- Work-life balance



WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL ABOUT?

Undergraduate and Graduate School Differences

Undergraduate Focus

- Broad courses across various subjects - science, math, humanities, arts
- Focus all four years is on coursework, play the credit game
- GPA is the key measure of success and can impact your next steps
- Complete a number of course credits and can finish once you complete credits for a degree
- Motivation driven by professors, credits

Graduate Focus

- Coursework is typically all chemistry specific
- Focus changes after year one or two to research, committee evaluations
- Key measure of success is research results (GPA must be above minimum)
- Individual pace - results determine the pace and progress, and finishing times vary student to student
- Motivation is self-driven

Graduate Degrees Options in Chemistry



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GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS IN CHEMISTRY

Common Degree and Career Paths

1

M.A. / M.S.
Common careers:

- Lab support
- Analysis
- K-12 education

2

P.S.M.
Common careers:

- Management
- Intellectual property
- Entrepreneurship

3

Ph.D.
Common careers:

- Academic research
- Industry
- Government
- Postsecondary education

4

**Other
Specialties**

- Ph.D./M.D.
- J.D. (Patent)
- M.B.A.
- Ed.D.



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GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS IN CHEMISTRY

Timeframe and Funding

P.S.M. Professional Science Masters

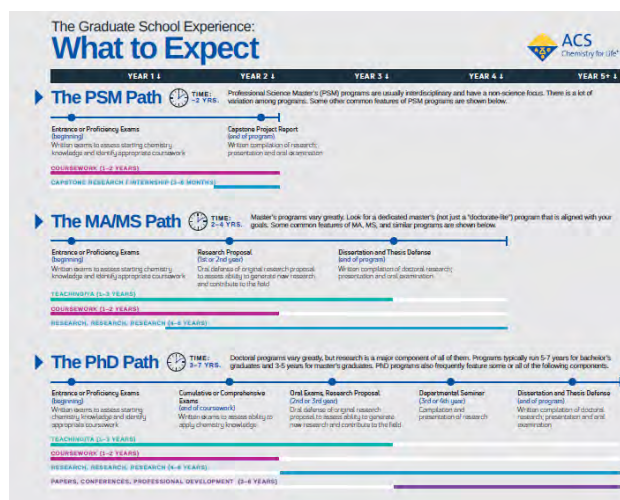
- Student supported costs
- Assistance may be available

M.A./M.S. Masters Programs

- Student supported costs
- Assistance may be available

Ph.D. Doctoral Programs

- Tuition/fees most often waived and
- Teaching assistant, research assistant, or other resources may be available



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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



Which of the following are graduate degrees in chemistry? (select all that apply)

- Dyes, pigments, and inks
- Neurochemistry
- Sensors
- Science policy
- Energy sciences



** If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!*

GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS IN CHEMISTRY

The Graduate Chemistry Landscape is Broad

Agricultural sciences	Environmental sciences	Neurochemistry
Analytical sciences	Food sciences	Pharmaceutical science
Archaeology	Forensic sciences	Pharmacology
Atmospheric sciences	Formulation chemistry	Physical chemistry
Biochemistry	Geological sciences	Photonics
Biological	Hazardous waste management	Process chemistry
Chemical education	Health and safety	Proteomes
Chemical engineering	Industrial chemistry	Quality assurance
Chemical information	Inorganics	Quality control
Colloidal sciences	Macromolecular	Regulatory affairs
Computational chemistry	Materials science	Science policy
Cosmetic sciences	Medicinal chemistry	Sensors
Crystallography	Natural products	Sustainability
Dyes, pigments, and inks	Organic synthesis	Theoretical
Earth and space science	Organometallics	Toxicology
Energy sciences	Nanosciences	Water chemist



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How to Prepare for Graduate School in Chemistry



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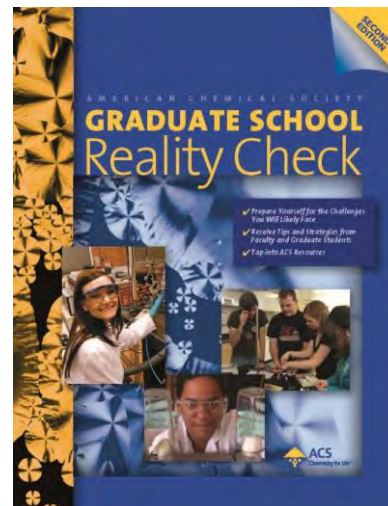


HOW TO PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY

Personal Preparation

Honest self-reflection

- How does graduate school fit into your life ?
- How does graduate school fit into career goals ?
- Examine your personal motivations.
- Do you like research ?
- Do you have a good reason to go to graduate school ?



HOW TO PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY

Coursework Preparation

Checklist for undergraduate chemistry courses

- 2 semesters general chemistry with lab
- 2 semesters organic chemistry with lab
- 2 semesters physical chemistry with lab
- 1-2 semesters analytical chemistry with lab
- 1-2 semesters inorganic chemistry with lab
- 1 semester biochemistry



HOW TO PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY

Undergraduate Research

Why complete undergraduate research?

- *Note:* research experience may not be required, program dependent
- Gives you experience and insight into graduate school and the research process
- Lets you explore research in an area without long-term commitment
- Provides you with a tangible item to add to your graduate school application (e.g., a scientific finding, a new or more polished skillset, or new experience working with a team of PhDs)
- Gives you an opportunity to build an independent relationship with a PI who might be a candidate to write your recommendation letter



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HOW TO PREPARE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY

Other Skills



Online
research
skills



WEB OF SCIENCE



Oral and written
presentation skills



Software
proficiency



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Logistics of Graduate School

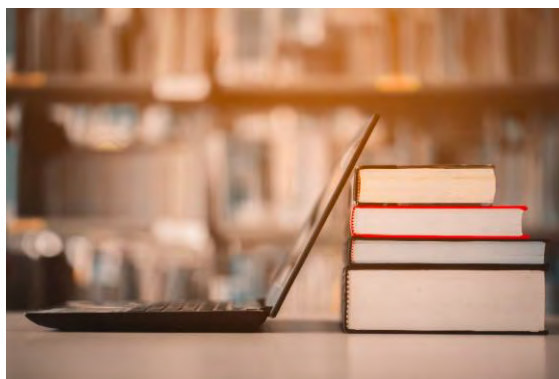


LOGISTICS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

Coursework in Graduate School

Graduate School Coursework

- Proficiency exams are usually required in first year to assess foundational knowledge
- Your course of studies builds on undergraduate knowledge
- Courses frequently require extensive literature research
- Assignments often necessitate specialized software, e.g., ChemDraw or data graphing tools
- Deliverables will test and hone communication skills



LOGISTICS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

Research

Research in graduate school

- Majority of your time will be spent on research
- May work collaboratively with another graduate student or postdoc, or may work solo under a PI
- New steps initiated by a hypothesis
- Daily small steps progress your research
- Characterized by failures, many, many steps you take will not succeed
- Patience, daily diligence, and perseverance key
- Target is to complete an aspect of a project or several new findings, and publish your findings



LOGISTICS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

Teaching

What does teaching mean for graduate students

- Many graduate students in chemistry serve at least one year in a teaching assistant role; in return, you receive a stipend for living expenses
- Some universities provide training for teaching assistants, others do not
- May involve teaching in a classroom, helping a professor grade assignments, or teaching in a laboratory setting
- Builds teaching skills, methodological research skills, and communication skills



An International Experience



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AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Considerations for International Experience

International student's checklist

- **Be sure you will enjoy living where the school is located and consider:**
 - Culture, food, religion, language, travel methods, environment, weather
 - Your support system in new country
- **Check with school directly for differences in academics:**
 - Will your coursework transfer one to one?
 - Do you have the right courses and credits?
- **Be aware of additional application requirements:**
 - In some cases, you apply to a school, at others, a professor's group
 - TOEFL, GRE, Student Visa process



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Decision Time



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WHAT IS GRADUATE SCHOOL ABOUT?

Deciding if Graduate School is Right for You

Questions	Weight or importance	No Graduate School	P.S.M.	M.A./ M.S.	Ph.D.
		Score	Score	Score	Score
1. Do I really want to go to graduate school?					
2. Which graduate school does my desired career path require?					
3. Do I want the higher salary or higher position?					
4. Am I passionate about chemistry?					
5. Can I afford to go to graduate school with the support provided?					
TOTAL					



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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



Knowing what you do now about grad school are you interested in?

(select all that apply)

- P.S.M. (Professional Science Masters)
- M.A. / M.S. (Masters Programs)
- Ph.D. (Doctoral Programs)
- No Graduate School
- Not applicable



** If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!*

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Ten Tips for Successfully Applying to Graduate School

TIPS FOR APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY

Ten Tips

Considering a graduate degree in chemistry?

There are a number of factors to assess before and during the application process. Follow these ten tips to successfully plan for and get accepted to pursue a graduate degree in chemistry that positions you for success on your career path.



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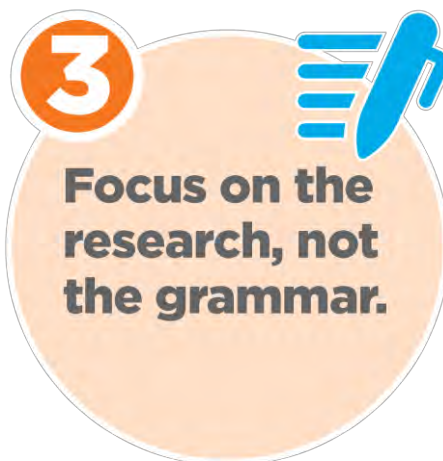


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5

Your approach should be both careful, analytical, and balanced.



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6

Be upfront about any conflicts of interest.



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Additional Key Resources



Where can I find help?

Planning for Graduate Work in Chemistry

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/graduate/gradschool.html>

InChemistry, the ACS Student Member Magazine

<https://inchemistry.acs.org/content/inchemistry/en/grad-school/applying-to-grad-school.html>



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Planning for Graduate Work in Chemistry

Successfully preparing for, finding, and transitioning into a graduate program requires an investment of time and effort. Central to this process is the on-going consideration of your goals, strengths, and opportunities. The contacts in your network will also provide information, advice, and support. Remember that great resources for learning about graduate school are undergraduate advisers, graduate faculty, and graduate school events held as part of undergraduate programming at ACS meetings.

The process differs for each person, reflecting different experiences, abilities, and goals. As the [Timeline for Success](#) indicates, there are some common steps in each phase of the process.



Preparing as an Undergraduate

During this phase, focus on building the knowledge, skills, and network you need to be successful in graduate school and your career.

Common questions to consider throughout each phase of the process

- Why are you pursuing a graduate degree?
- What do you want to contribute to the chemical sciences?
- What graduate school experiences will benefit you?



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Thank You



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I applied to grad school—now what?


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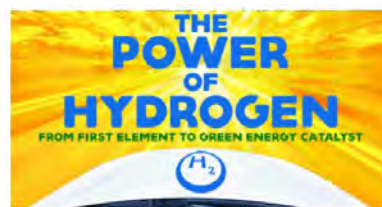
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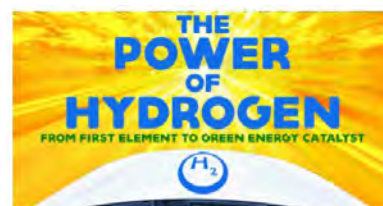
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- Hydrogen production methods and its role as a transportation energy carrier in fuel cells
- Transportation opportunities using Hydrogen and fuel cells as an energy source
- Economic, storage, and safety issues when using hydrogen through different applications

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