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How can i graduate high school early

Leer en español Ler em português Although the rich world is enjoying a long spell of unprecedented job growth and low unemployment, competition for the most competitive roles remains fierce. Tech companies like Google and Microsoft reportedly receive two million applications per year, and banks like Goldman Sachs attract in the thousands. While these employers, among a growing number of others, are unanimously highlighting the importance of critical soft skills — such as emotional intelligence, resilience, and learnability — as determinants of performance, the most in-demand jobs require graduate credentials, to the point of surpassing current levels of supply. Consider, for example, that there are around 500,000 open IT jobs, but only 50,000 new IT graduates each year. At the same time, the number of people enrolling in university continues to rise, effectively devaluating the undergraduate degree. In America, one-third of adults are college graduates, a figure that was just 4.6% in the 1940s. Globally, UNESCO reports that the number of students earning a university degree has more than doubled in the past 20 years. In light of these figures, it is easy to understand why more and more of the workforce is considering going to graduate school. In the U.S., the number of graduate students has tripled since the 1970s, and according to some estimates, 27% of employers now require master's degrees for roles in which historically undergraduate degrees sufficed. What, then, are the motives you should be considering if you are trying to decide whether or not to enroll? How can you determine if the time — and especially the money — required to pursue a graduate education will actually pay off or not? Here are some factors to consider: Reasons You Should Go to Grad School 1. To bump up your salary potential. It's no secret that people who have graduate school degrees are generally paid more money than those who don't. While a 25% increase in earnings is the average boost people see, attending the top MBA programs can increase your salary by as much as 60-150% (whereas a masters in Human Services or Museum Sciences will increase your earnings by a mere 10-15%). 2. To set a career change in motion. AI and automation are replacing many roles with others and a growing proportion of workers are being pushed to reskill and upskill to remain relevant. There's no doubt that most of us will have to reinvent ourselves at some point if we want to do the same. If you find yourself in this situation currently, grad school may not be a bad choice. The bigger challenge, however, will be picking what to major in. If you set yourself up to be a strong candidate for jobs that are in high demand, you risk being too late to the game by the time you graduate. For instance, if everyone studies data science in order to fill unfilled vacancies, in a few years there will be a surplus of candidates. A better strategy is do your research and try to predict what the in-demand roles will be in the future. Universities can actually help you here. Increasingly, formal study qualifications are being indexed according to the foundational, or soft skills, they require. This means that more graduate programs are starting to teach soft skills, in addition to knowledge, and prepare students for an uncertain labor market rather than for specific jobs. 3. To follow your passion. It's not uncommon for people to get stuck in the wrong job as a result of poor career guidance or a lack of self-awareness at a young age — i.e. failing to know their interests and potential when they began their careers. This leads to low levels of engagement, performance, and productivity, and high levels of burnout, stress, and alienation. Pursuing your passion, therefore, is not a bad criterion for deciding to go to grad school. After all, people perform better and learn more when their studies align with their values. If you can nurture your curiosity and interests by pursuing rigorous learning, your expertise will be more likely to set you apart from other candidates, and increase the chances of ending up in a job you love. Note that even robots and AI are being programmed to emulate this free-floating aspect of human curiosity in order to match human's capacity for autonomous and self-directed learning. Reasons You Should Not Go to Grad School 1. You can learn for free (or for much less money). There is a plethora of content — books, videos, podcasts, and more — that are now widely available, at no cost, to the general public. Arguably, much of this free content mirrors (or actually is) the material students are studying in grad school programs. Therefore, if you want a master's degree simply to gain more knowledge, it's important to recognize that it is possible to recreate learning experiences without paying thousands of dollars for a class. Consider all the things you can learn just by watching YouTube, assuming you have the discipline and self-control to focus: coding, digital drawing, UX design, video editing, and more. Other platforms, such as Udemy and Coursera can be used to upskill at a more affordable cost than attending a degree program. Essentially, if your goal is to acquire a new skill, and that skill can be taught, it is hard to compete with platforms where experts can crowdsource, teach, and share content. 2. You may be wasting your time. Historically, people have mostly learned by doing — and there is a big difference between communicating the theoretical experience of something and actually going through that experience. This is a truth that can't be changed by a graduate (or undergraduate) education. In fact, most Fortune 500 firms end up investing substantially to reskill and upskill new hires, regardless of their credentials. For instance, employers like Google, Amazon, and Microsoft all pointed out that learnability — having a hungry mind and being a fast and passionate learner — is more important than having acquired certain expertise in college. Along the same lines, many employers complain that even the best performing graduates will need to learn the most relevant job skills, such as leadership and self-management, after they start their jobs. Oddly, this does not stop employers from paying a premium for college qualifications, including graduate credentials. 3. You will probably go into debt. For some grad school programs the ROI is clear, but there's a great deal of variability. It can be challenging to find a program that is certain to boost your income in the short run, particularly if you also want to study something you love. For example, an MBA, which remains the most popular choice of grad school program in the U.S., is more likely to increase your earning potential than a master's in climate change. But if your true passion is climate change, you may end up excelling and having a more lucrative long-term career, but struggle financially in the short term. All this to say, if you're not committed to the subject you're studying enough to go into debt for a few years, the risk probably isn't worth the degree. What is discouraging is that this dilemma would not be a problem at all if. Employers started to pay more attention to factors other than a candidate's college degree or formal credentials Universities devoted more time to teaching soft skills (and got better at it) Universities focused on nurturing a sense of curiosity, which would be a long-term indicator of people's career potential, even for jobs they have never done before The problem is that most people would probably prefer the qualifications of a graduate degree without the underlying experience and education, to the actual experience and education without the formal qualifications that follow. What is actually valued are the consequences of having a degree, rather than the degree itself. Assuming the recent trend to buy more and more formal education continues, eventually we can assume that graduate credentials won't be enough for candidates to gain a true competitive advantage. Just like the value of a master's degree is equivalent to the value of an undergraduate degree 30 years ago, if in 30 years a large proportion of the workforce obtains a master's, or PhD, employers may finally be forced to look at talent and potential beyond formal qualifications. It seems, then, that the decision to go or not to go to grad school is as complex as uncertain, there are no clear-cut arguments in favor of it or against it. To be sure, it is not easy to predict what the ROI of grad school will be, though the factors outlined here may help you assess your own individual circumstances. Like any big decision in life, this one requires a fair amount of courage and risk taking. In the words of Daniel Kahneman, the Nobel Prize-winning psychologist who pioneered the modern study of decision making under uncertainty: "Courage is willingness to take the risk once you know the odds. Optimistic overconfidence means you are taking the risk because you don't know the odds. It's a big difference." Are you thinking of going to grad school? If so, think long and hard about whether the time, commitment, money and elbow grease it demands will give you a good return on your investment. You might have sailed effortlessly through your undergraduate years without letting it crimp your style, but graduate programs are different. They're a lot of work, and they're expensive. Unless you have rich parents, a full scholarship, or some serious bank of your own, your degree will probably leave you with substantial student loan debt. Nonetheless, going to graduate school can be a wise investment in your future and a seriously smart idea. Here are five examples of when going to graduate school can be well worth your while. You Need a Graduate Degree to Work in Your Field Do you want to be a college professor, an astronaut, an anthropologist or a clinical psychologist? If so, you're going to need a doctoral degree just to get your foot in the door. For most people, getting a Ph.D. takes five to eight years. However, the great majority of jobs that require graduate school require only a master's degree, and you can complete it in one or two years if you attend school full time. Your Employer Will Pay For Grad School Companies like Starbucks will actually pay your tuition if you want to go to grad school. Unless you are absolutely certain that a master's degree would be a total waste of your time, consider taking your employer up on the offer and getting a master's degree. Since you'll probably be working full time and going to school part time, it may take two or more years to get your degree, but ask yourself what you would be doing with the time if you weren't in school? Your employer might even allow you to work part time while you attend classes. Getting a master's degree now can qualify you for a higher-level position and a larger paycheck later on. You Want a New Career Rather than going back to undergrad school and getting a bachelor's degree in another field, there are many instances where you can already hold a bachelor's degree in one field and get a master's degree that qualifies you to work in another a field. You Want to Advance in Your Present Position There are many fields in which you can work at one level with a bachelor's degree and a higher level with a master's degree. Social work is one example. Although there are social work jobs that only require an undergraduate degree, going to grad school and earning an MSW will qualify you for increased responsibilities, a wider range of positions and, of course, a larger paycheck. You Want to Increase, Broaden and Improve Your Skill Set Let's say you're an artist with a fine arts degree who paints watercolors. You believe your work would be enhanced and your ability to create in other mediums broadened if you were to get a master of fine arts degree. You don't know if going to grad school would increase your earnings, although if it did you would not complain. However, your bottom-line motivation for getting an MFA is that it would jump start your creativity and bring you greater artistic satisfaction. Unlike undergraduate programs where you are basically just attending classes, writing papers and taking exams, masters and doctorate programs provide you with the academic equivalent of working in a professional position. It can feel very much like on-the-job training, and by the time you complete your degree, you'll be ready to step into a job in your chosen field and get the job done. Just be as certain as possible that what you are going to grad school to learn is something that you really want to do. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Use precise geolocation data. Store and/or access information on a device. Select personalised content. Create a personalised content profile. Measure ad performance. Select basic ads. Create a personalised ads profile. Select personalised ads. Apply market research to generate audience insights. Measure content performance. Develop and improve products. List of Partners (vendors) Laid off after more than a decade in the corporate world, a reader asks, "At 42 years of age, is it too late for a career in science? I stayed with the job for its fantastic pay. That's over and I've always wanted to make new discoveries. Is it too late to go to graduate school?" The quick answer is no. Age will not hurt your application if you're prepared. It's never too late to learn new things, carve out a new career path, and go to graduate school. But it may be more difficult to gain admission to graduate school after several years or decades in a career as compared with fresh out of college simply because of the gap in your education. What's much more important than the amount of time elapsed between earning your bachelor's degree and applying to graduate school is what you have done with that time. Many fields, like business and social work, often prefer applicants to have some work experience. Science fields emphasize a background in science and math. Recent coursework in these areas will aid your application. Demonstrate that you can think abstractly and have the mind of a scientist. Once you have decided to apply to grad school after years away from academia your job is to carefully examine each graduate program's requirements. Are there any stated expectations about a particular major, coursework, or outside experiences? Evaluate your background and skill set. Do you have the basics? If not, what can you do to enhance your application? You might take classes in statistics, for example, or volunteer to work in a faculty member's lab. Volunteering is easier once you have taken a class or two and have a basis for a relationship with a professor. That said, it never hurts to ask as every professor could use an extra set of eyes and hands. Good scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) are part of every successful application. However, if you're applying to grad school after several years, your GRE scores may be even more important for your application because they indicate your potential for graduate study. In the absence of recent indicators (such as graduating within the last few years), standardized test scores may be scrutinized more closely. When it comes to recommendation letters, there are a variety of options for students who have been out of college for several years. Try to obtain at least one that evaluates you within an academic context. Even if you've graduated a decade ago you may be able to obtain a letter from a faculty member. Unless you were particularly stellar, he or she may not remember you but the university has a record of your grades and many faculty keep a permanent file of their grades. Even better, if you've recently taken a class, request a letter from your professor. Also get a letter(s) from recent employers as they have a current perspective of your work habits and skills. Know what you're getting into. Graduate study is not glamorous and not always interesting. It is hard work. You'll be broke. A research assistantship, teaching assistantship, and other funding resources can pay for your tuition and sometimes offer a small stipend but you're not going to support a family on it. If you have a family, think about how you'll manage your family responsibilities. Where will you study and how will you carve out uninterrupted time? You will have more work than you can imagine and it will require more time than you plan. Think about it now so that you're prepared later - and so you prepare your family to support you as needed. There are many students who combine grad school and family quite successfully.

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