

Graduate Education 101



Agenda

- ▶ **What is Graduate School**
 - ▶ **Degree Types**
- ▶ **Why Attend**
- ▶ **How to Apply**
- ▶ **How to Finance**



What is Graduate School?



An aerial photograph of a modern university building with multiple levels and green roofs. The building features a mix of grey and blue tones. The surrounding area is lush with greenery, including trees and grass. A paved courtyard with a few people is visible in the lower right. The image is overlaid with a large teal text box and several teal and orange decorative shapes on the right side.

Graduate School:
a division of a university
offering advanced programs
beyond the bachelor's degree

Degrees

- ▶ Post Baccalaureate
- ▶ Credential
- ▶ Master's
- ▶ PhD
- ▶ Professional



Types of Graduate Programs

Post Baccalaureate

- ▶ **Post Baccalaureate** programs begin after an undergraduate degree and are designed to support the transition to professional school
- ▶ **Who will benefit:**
 - ▷ Continuing education
 - ▷ Need prerequisites courses
 - ▷ Low GPA
- ▶ **Con:**
 - ▷ \$\$\$\$\$
 - ▷ Time
 - ▷ No degree

Types of Graduate Programs

Credential Programs

- ▶ **Training programs** offered by universities to achieved a measured level of knowledge within a designated timeline after completing a Bachelor's
- ▶ **Benefits:**
 - ▷ Short completion time (1-year)
 - ▷ Low cost
 - ▷ Provides certification
- ▶ **Con:**
 - ▷ Depending on the field & state, you may be better off completing a master's

Types of Graduate Programs

Master's Degree

- ▶ An academic **degree** awarded by universities or colleges upon completion of a **course** of study demonstrating mastery or a high-order overview of a specific field of study or area of professional practice
 - ▶ **Two Types**
 - **Terminal**
 - Professional/Career
 - **Non terminal - Research Based**
 - PhD route

Types of Graduate Programs

Master's Degree (continue)

▶ **Benefits:**

- ▶ Specialized studies
- ▶ Career advancement
- ▶ Increased earning potential
- ▶ Enhance professional network
- ▶ Completion in 2-3 year (full-time status)
- ▶ Flexible (night courses, part-time status)

▶ **Cons:**

- ▶ More likely to pay out of pocket
- ▶ Limited grants and scholarship sources
- ▶ Expensive
- ▶ May require: Exit exam, Thesis, Research Project, Internship hours etc.

Types of Graduate Programs

PhD Programs

A Doctor of Philosophy is the most common degree at the highest academic level awarded following a course of study. PhDs are awarded for programs across the whole breadth of academic fields.

Why PhD:

- ▶ Research
- ▶ Academia
- ▶ Leader in the Field
- ▶ Discover, improving, challenging knowledge

Types of Graduate Programs

PhD Programs (Continue)

► **Benefits:**

- ▷ Many funding sources, never pay out of pocket!
- ▷ MA/PhD programs
- ▷ High earning potential
- ▷ High career advancement opportunities
- ▷ Professional & Societal Status

► **Con:**

- ▷ Time (5+ years)
- ▷ Competitive
- ▷ Loss of income earning during studying

Types of Graduate Programs

Professional Degree

A **professional degree** is a **degree** that prepares you for a specific profession.

Types:

- ▶ Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
- ▶ Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)
- ▶ Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., Pod.)
- ▶ Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.)
- ▶ Juris Doctor (J.D.)
- ▶ Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)
- ▶ Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)
- ▶ Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)
- ▶ Many others (MBA, DVM, etc.)

Types of Graduate Programs

Professional Degree (Continue)

▶ **Benefits:**

- ▶ Perform a particular occupation
- ▶ Highest Potential Earnings
- ▶ Might be a con: Depending on program (2-6 years)

▶ **Cons:**

- ▶ Most expensive type of degree
- ▶ Mostly out of pocket cost & loans
- ▶ Limited financial assistance
- ▶ Length of program (depending on program)
- ▶ Time commitment/not as flexibility

Why Attend Graduate School?



Educational Attainment of US Adults Ages 25+ in 2017



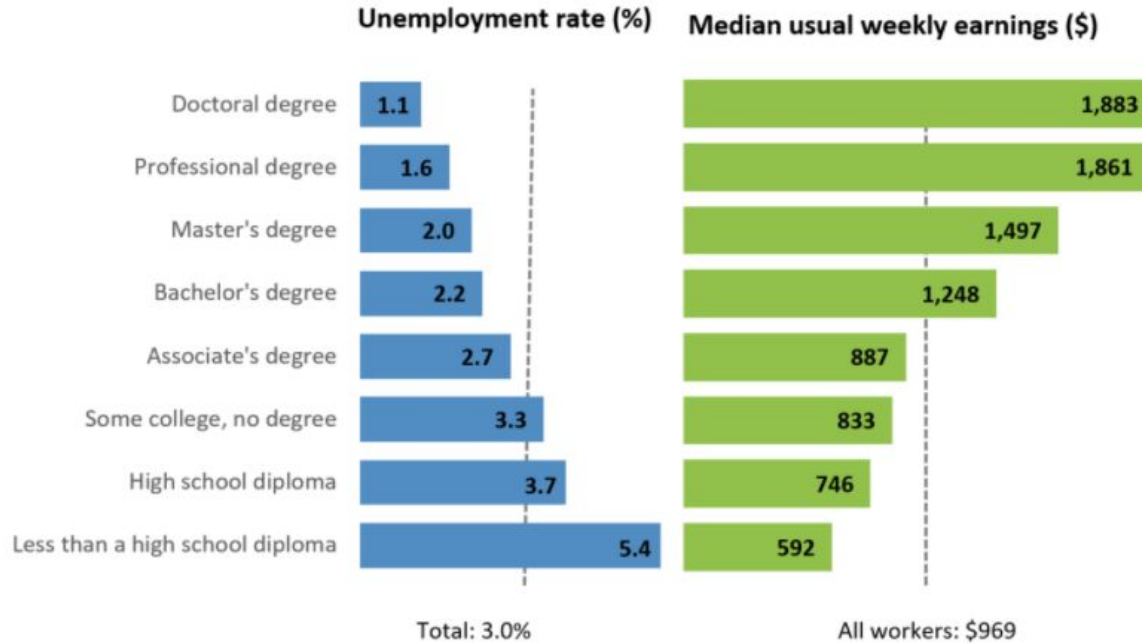
Group	High school graduate or more	Bachelor's degree or more	Advanced degree
Population 25 and older	90%	34%	13%
Male	89%	34%	13%
Female	90%	35%	13%
White	90%	35%	13%
Black	87%	24%	9%
Asian	91%	55%	24%
Hispanic (of any race)	71%	17%	5%
25-34	92%	37%	12%
35-54	90%	37%	14%
55+	88%	30%	12%

Published by MarketingCharts.com in January 2018 | Data Source: US Census Bureau

Figures show the percentage of each demographic group with the listed educational attainment as of 2017

Levels of Degree Attainment by Race, Age, & Gender

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2019



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Did I convince to go to graduate school yet?

Why Attend Graduate School?

Questions to ask yourself and research:

1. Why do I want to attend graduate school?
2. Is a graduate degree necessary?
3. What do I want to gain from a graduate program?
4. Which graduate program is right for me?

Why Attend Graduate School?

Tips:

- ▶ Write down your reasons
- ▶ Research occupations and graduate degree programs (recommend: [onetonline.org](https://www.onetonline.org))
- ▶ Attend Graduate Program Information Sessions
 - ▷ Speak with an Academic Advisor
 - ▷ Reach out to current graduate students via email or linkedin
- ▶ **Join your Alma Mater Career Center Alumni Membership to access graduate school workshop, tutors, & advisors**

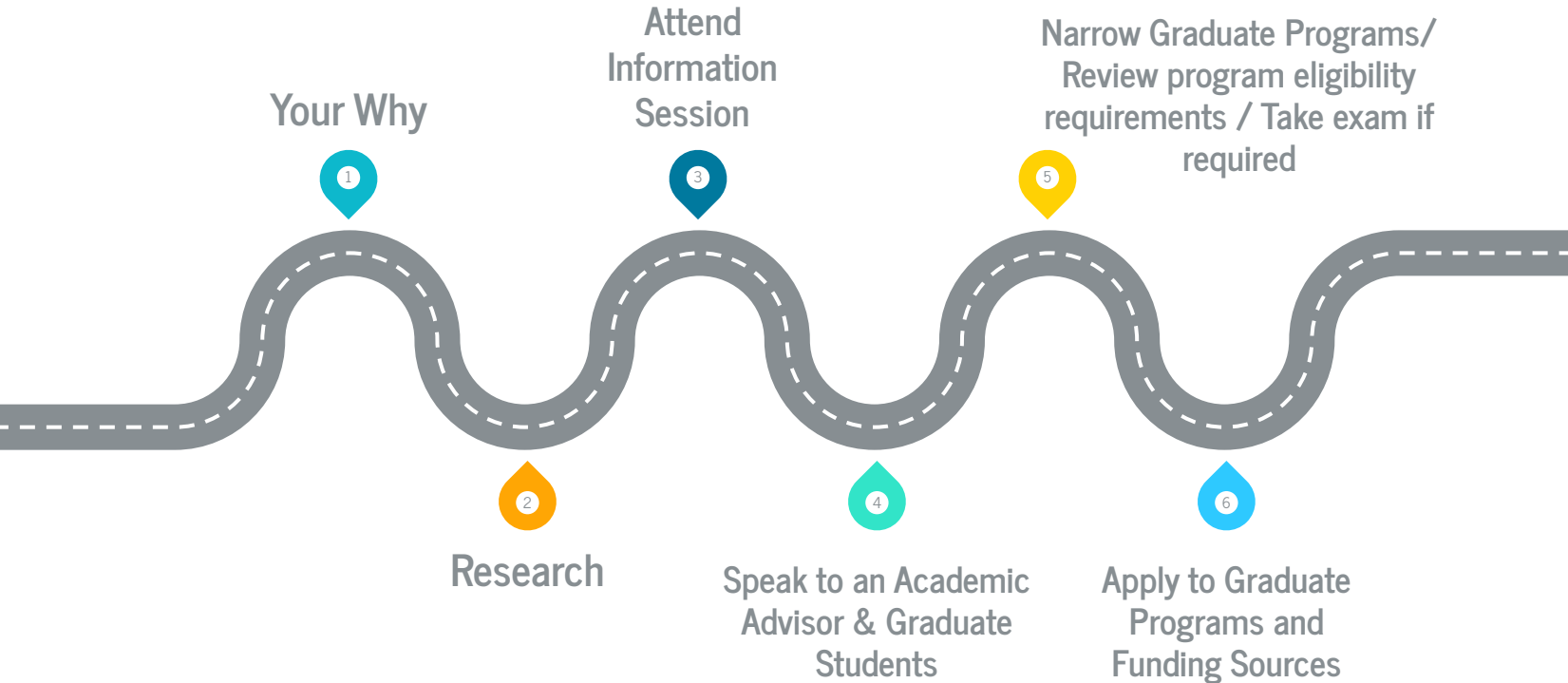
Are you ready to apply and attend graduate school?

1. Expectations
 - a. Must be able to meet academic requirements
 - i. No procrastinating!
2. Time commitment
 - a. Studying
 - b. Networking
 - c. Internships
3. Ready to continue learning
4. Understand you cannot switch programs

How to Apply



Timeline Prior to Graduate School



Before Applying

- ▶ **2 Applications: one for the university and one for the graduate program**
- ▶ Read eligibility requirements
 - ▷ Pre-requisite courses
 - ▷ GPA (may be able to request GPA waiver)
 - ▷ Experience / volunteer hours
- ▶ Exams (GRE, MCAT, CBEST)
- ▶ Be ready to spend \$\$\$ on applications if you're not a current undergraduate student and currently employed

What you'll need to apply

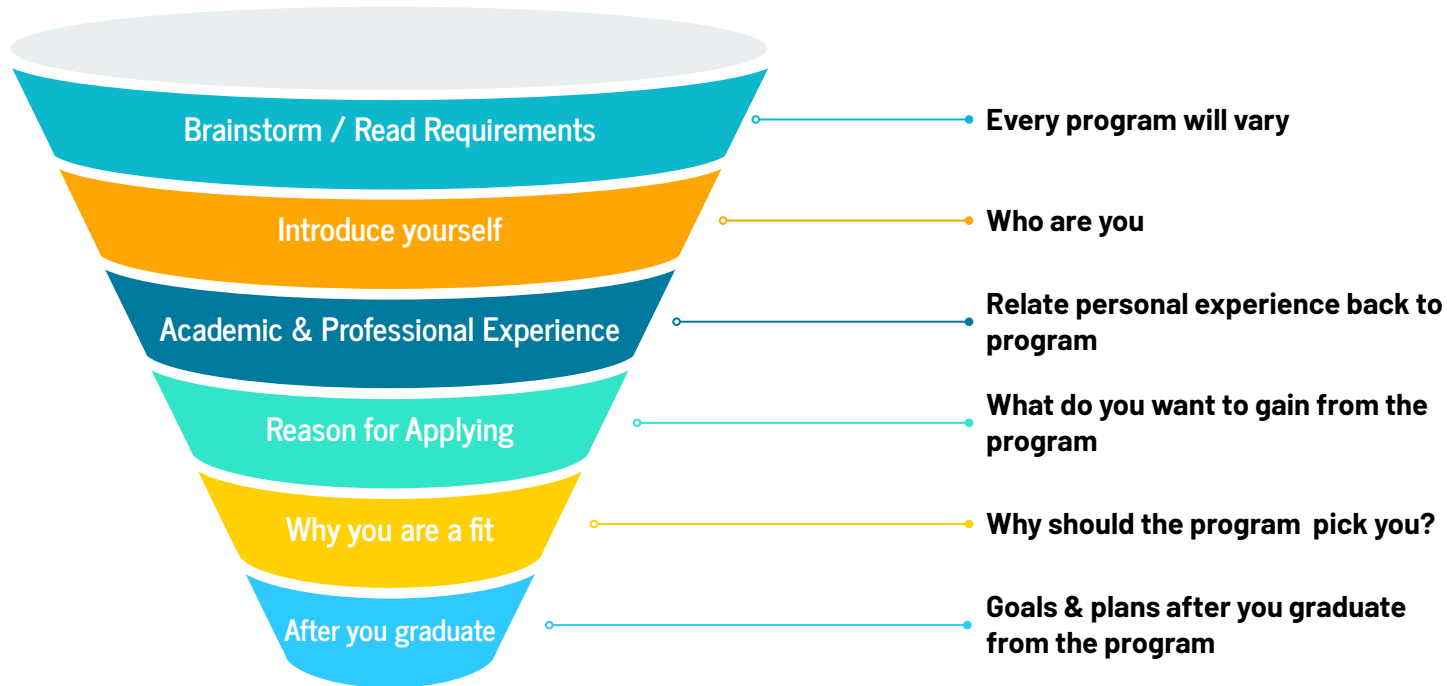
CV/RESUME

Transcripts/
Examination
Scores

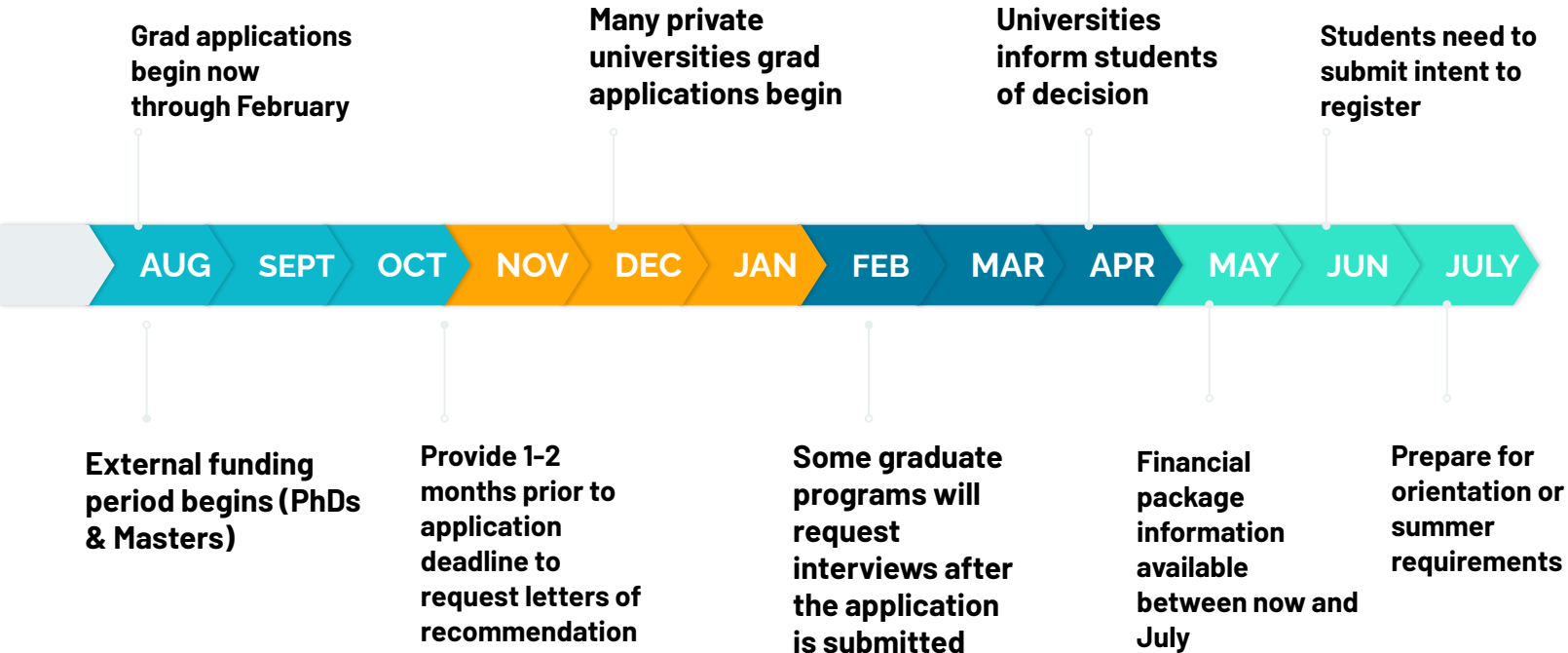
Personal
Statement/Research
Statement

Letters of
Recommendation/
Proof of Experience
or Volunteer Hours








Personal Statement Help



Application Timeline for Fall Admission



Get Organized

Programs  <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stanford Biology Phd	Checklist  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application due Nov. 1st• Recommendations due Dec. 1st	Funding Sources  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stanford scholarship fund due Feb 1st• FAFSA due March 1st	Materials Need <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CV• Personal Statement• Research Statement• 2 letters of recommendation	Letter of Recommendation  <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Cruz- Dr. Amest
	Program start date  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School start Aug 28		Contact Info  <p>Email: grad@stanford.edu</p>	
COST/Living Expenses for Stanford  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing for 1 year = \$11,000• Grocery Budget for each week = \$100• Car Insurance Monthly = \$91		Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create calendar reminders• Attend new student mixer on June 1st		

Funding Graduate School



Types of Funding

- ▶ **Scholarships:**
 - ▶ Funds that can be used to help cover the cost of tuition, books and other fees.

Types of Funding

- ▶ **Grants:**
 - ▶ Grants, are similar to scholarships, are merit-based or need-based awards that can be used to augment other sources of financial aid and do not have to be repaid.

Types of Funding

▶ Fellowships:

- ▶ Fellowships are short-term funding opportunities (typically 9-12 months) provided to students in the form of tuition credits and/or stipends.
- ▶ **2 Types:**
 - University-based Fellowships
 - External Fellowships

Types of Funding

- ▶ **Fellowships (Cont.):**
 - ▶ **University-based**
 - Individual schools, colleges, and departments at a university (e.g. College of Science, Department of English) may have endowed fellowships. Students are either nominated for an award by their department or may be open to an application process.

Types of Funding

- ▶ **Fellowships (Cont.):**
 - ▶ **External Fellowships**
 - Funded by foundations, government agencies and other groups and provide opportunities to study both in the US and abroad.
 - *Often Portable - can be use at any accredited institution*

Types of Funding

- ▶ **Graduate Assistants (GAs):**
 - ▶ Graduate Assistants (GAs) are graduate students who are hired to perform instructional, research, or administrative duties. Provide a service to the University related to their academic program and professional goals.

Types of Funding

- ▶ **Graduate Assistants (GAs):**
 - ▷ 3 Types of Graduate Assistantships:
 1. Teaching Assistants
 2. Assistant Lecturers
 3. Research Assistants

Funding Overview

1. Merit - Based Student Aid:

- a. Fellowships, grants & scholarships (external or internal)
- b. University awards
- c. Graduate assistantships

2. Need-based Student Aid:

- a. FAFSA & CA Dream Act (may include grants)
- b. Work Study
- c. Loans (US DOE Direct Loans, Private)



What to consider when applying for funding to graduate programs

What to consider when apply for funding

- Majority of funds come from merit-based rather than financial need-base & FAFSA/Dream Act for graduate school

(Important to apply to external and internal funding in addition to FAFSA/Dream Act)

- More funding resources available for Doctoral programs than there are for Master programs

What to consider when apply for funding

- Most assistantships and fellowships require you to be a full-time student
- Understand the terms of your funding
 - a. *Benefits (Tuition, travel, research, housing, healthcare)*
 - b. *Requirements (Does it require you to teach, to perform specific research, etc?)*
 - c. *Length & Stage (1 year or more; 1st year vs last year of grad program etc.)*

An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent green roof. The building features a central courtyard with a paved area and a few people walking. The surrounding area is lush with greenery and trees. The text "When to apply" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

When to apply

When to apply

- Both internal and external graduate fellowship deadlines typically fall between **October and February** and fund the following academic year.
- *This means you need to apply to them at the same time you are applying to graduate schools.*

An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent green roof. The building features a central courtyard with a paved area and a few people walking. The surrounding area is lush with greenery and trees. The building's facade is characterized by dark, vertical panels and horizontal lines. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

How to search for funding

How to search for internal funding

For Internal Funding

1. Research specific graduate department funding
2. Research campus funding for graduate students
3. Apply to any campus specific scholarships, grants, fellowships, and graduate assistantships
4. Apply for FAFSA/Dream Act

How to search for internal funding (cont.)

1. Research Centers, Projects, Programs
 - a. [CSU Sally Casanova Predoctoral Scholarship Program](#)
2. Residential Life Advisor
3. Discounted or Free Tuition from Employers
4. Undergraduate Advising
5. Tutoring Programs

How to search for external funding

For External Funding

1. Search engines, associations, private & government websites
2. Employer
3. External funding databases, such as:
 - a. [GoGrad](#)
 - b. [National Science Foundation](#)

There are many databases to research for funding!

How to search for external funding

- CollegeScholarships.org
- Grants.gov
- Unigo.com
- Profellow.com
- Associations (ex: apa.org/about/awards)
- SallieMae.com/GradScholarships

Government external funding

- US Dept of Defence
 - ndseg.sysplus.com (Science & Engineering)
 - SmartScholarship.org/smart (Science Research)
- Dept of Homeland Security:
 - Orau.gov/dhseducation (STEM)
- National Institute of Health
 - grants.nih.gov/training (Bio-medical)
- Department of State
 - us.fulbrightonline.org (Academic & Creative/Performing Arts)

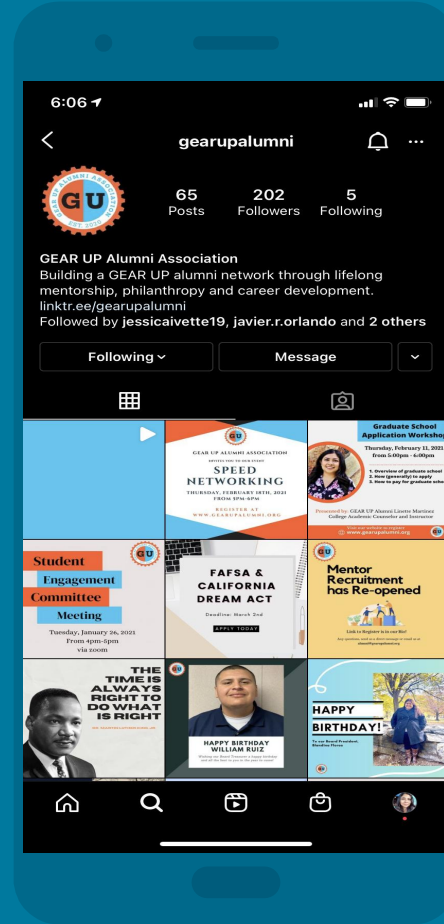
External funding for undocumented students

- Fulbright U.S. Student Program
 - [Foreign.fulbrightonline.org](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org)
- International Education Financial Aid
 - lefa.org
- Institute of International Education (IIE)
 - [Fundingusstudy.org](https://fundingusstudy.org)
- If you are under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), check for university fellowships eligibility.

An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent green roof. The building features a central courtyard with a wooden deck and a small structure. The surrounding area is lush with greenery and trees. The text 'Q & A' is overlaid on the image in a white font on a blue background.

Q & A

Follow GEAR UP Alumni Association!



Thanks!

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Credits

Special thanks to all from the GEAR UP Alumni Association!

- ▶ Google [January 31, 2021]. *Google Dictionary*. Retrieved from [google.com](https://www.google.com/dictionary/)
- ▶ Marketingcharts [January 3, 2018]. *Education Attainment Rising: 1 in 3 Have At Least A Bachelor's Degree*. Retrieved from [marketingcharts.com/industries/education-81827](https://www.marketingcharts.com/industries/education-81827)
- ▶ Photographs by Google Image Search and Self
- ▶ US Bureau Labor Statistics [February 21, 2019]. *Education Attainment 2018 Data*. Retrieved from [census.gov/data/tables/2018/demo/education-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2018/demo/education-attainment/cps-detailed-tables.html)
- ▶ US Bureau Labor Statistics [September 1, 2020]. *Employment Projections*. Retrieved from [bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm](https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm)