

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

The average age for a UT Tyler graduate student is 33, but it ranges from 21 to over 65.
Most graduate students work at least part-time; many are full-time working professionals.
Most master's programs can be completed in two years.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Graduate school application requirements vary by program. Common requirements include proof of a completed bachelor's degree, GRE/GMAT scores, a minimum undergraduate GPA, a statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, video essay, and interviews.

LESS STRUCTURE AND MORE FREEDOM

There's less handholding and reminders about due dates. With freedom comes responsibility. You'll need to manage your own deadlines.

EARN MORE MONEY

According to the Social Security Administration, a person with a graduate degree typically earns \$650,000 to \$845,000 more in median lifetime earnings than a person with a bachelor's degree.

COURSE LOAD AND RIGOR

Graduate full-time enrollment is just nine hours because graduate courses involve much more reading and research than undergraduate courses. Courses will usually have fewer assignments. There are rarely extra-credit type assignments.

PEERS VS STUDENTS

Graduate students are viewed as early-stage professionals, not as students. You will be treated as the next generation of professionals – peers in training.

RESEARCHING AND WRITING

You'll be reading, researching, and writing a lot more, which means you'll need to make sure your study habits are in peak shape. It's important not to fall behind because it can be very difficult to catch up.

FOCUSED COURSEWORK

Your graduate degree is designed help you become an expert in your chosen field of study. This means most of your courses are based on what you want to study and what you're interested in – no unrelated content.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Participation is not optional. Professors will engage you, and you'll be expected to contribute to a collaborative class experience.

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES

A graduate degree can open doors to opportunities (like promotions and raises) that might not be available without it. Graduate degree holders also participate in civic engagement at higher rates than others and play leadership roles in their community.