



IS GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR YOU?

- Does the career you are preparing for require an advanced degree?
- Are you financially prepared?
- Would it be more appropriate to work first and then return to school?
- Are there other options that you should consider?

HOW IS GRADUATE SCHOOL DIFFERENT FROM UNDERGRAD EDUCATION?

- The quality and quantity of work increases.
- Class sizes are smaller and collaborative work is encouraged.
- Students are expected to take more initiative in their own learning.
- There is an increased depth to research projects including original research.

TYPES OF GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER'S DEGREE

- Usually 2-3 years to complete
- Career oriented
- Possibility of thesis or non-thesis

DOCTORAL DEGREE

- Usually 4-6+ years to complete
- Research oriented
- Complete dissertation

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
ets.org/gre

Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
mba.com

Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
lsac.org

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
aamc.org/students/applying/mcat

Dental Admission Test (DAT)
ada.org/dat.aspx

Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT)
pcatweb.info

Tip: No two programs are the same. You must always contact the admissions office or visit the website of the graduate program to retrieve specific information required in the application process. If you fail to meet all of their criteria, you risk the chance of your application not being considered.

Writing Your Personal Statement



The admission essay, personal statement, goal statement, or statement of purpose are essentially asking for the same information: Who are you? What is your purpose? What do you expect to do with your advanced degree?

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Be honest – genuinely reflect why you want to enter into a graduate or professional program.
- Completely answer all questions and follow the directions provided.
- Tell a story – by distinguishing yourself through your story, you will make yourself memorable.
- Be specific and include concrete examples that back up your story.
- Research the university and the program you are applying to, and find out what sets them apart from others.
- Proofread and find others to proofread for you.

QUESTIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU COLLECT IDEAS AND INFORMATION

- What is special, unique, distinctive, and/or impressive about you or your life story?
- What are your career goals and how will this program help you achieve them?
- When did you become interested in this field and what have you learned about it (and about yourself)?
- What academic background and related experience do you have in this field?
- Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain?
- Have you had to overcome any unusual obstacles or hardships in your life?
- What is your interest and motivation for pursuing this field?

THINGS TO AVOID

- Little white lies: “This program is my first choice...”
- Flattery: “This program is the finest in the country...”
- Overgeneralization.
- Philosophical: “Life in the universe is ever-changing...”
- One-dimensional: “My greatest desire is...my only goal in life is...”
- Painfully obvious: “I believe my undergraduate education has prepared me for...”
- Autobiographical: “...and when I was twelve my family moved to...”
- Getting too personal about religion, politics, or your lack of education.
- Repeating information directly from your application form unless you use it to illustrate a point or want to develop it further.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [Grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com) – a free online tool to proofread your writing
- [EssayEdge.com](https://www.essayedge.com) and [TopAdmit.com](https://www.topadmit.com) – sample personal statements



WCSU: A CELEBRATED LEADER IN GRADUATE EDUCATION



Outstanding faculty & Curricula
Convenient
Flexible scheduling

Doctoral Programs

Instructional Leadership
 Nursing Education

Master's Degree

Addiction Studies
 Applied Behavior Analysis
 Biological and Environmental Sciences
 Biology: Integrative Biological Diversity
 Business Administration

Counselor Education (Mental Health/School)
 Earth and Planetary Sciences
 Education (Curriculum
 Leadership/Instructional Technology)
 English
 Health Administration
 History
 Literacy and Language Arts
 Mathematics
 Music Education
 Nursing (Gerontology Clinical Specialist/NP,
 Psychiatric NP)

Special Education (K-12)
 Teaching Secondary
 Education (Bio/Chem/Eng/Math/SS/SPAN)

Master of Fine Arts

Visual Arts (Painting, Illustration, or
 Interdisciplinary)
 Creative and Professional Writing

Certificate Programs

Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Nurse
 Practitioner Intermediate Administration
 Supervision (#092)

Students Today
Alumni Tomorrow



Alumni Association Board of Directors (2020)

WHO WE ARE

The WCSU Alumni Association is an active nonprofit organization operating through the Office of Alumni Relations to coordinate opportunities and events within the university community that benefit our current students and alumni.

Our Mission:

- To develop and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship between Western Connecticut State University and its alumni by fostering a welcoming atmosphere for future and existing alumni;
- To raise awareness through philanthropy and fundraising;
- To build lasting relationships among alumni, students, staff, and the greater Danbury community;
- To celebrate and honor alumni.

EVENTS

Alumni participate and are engaged with current students at several events throughout the year. Here are a few networking and volunteer opportunities to make connections.

- Entering the Gates Ceremony
- Clubs Carnival (fall/spring)
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Homecoming
- Alumni Career Panels
- Midnight Breakfast (fall/spring)
- Alumni Scholarship Opportunities
- Alumni & Student Meet & Greet
- Student Leadership Banquet
- Grad Salute

Stay connected with us!

