What are the Benefits of Graduate School?

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NDSU Memorial Union, Prairie Room
11 a.m.
Why Should I Attend Graduate School?

- Career of interest may require
- Advance Career
- Become credentialed
- Earn a higher salary
- Hone your professional skills
- Develop new competencies
- Change careers
- Enter a doctoral program
- Think independently and learn actively

*In the fields of observation chance favors only the prepared mind.*
Masters Degrees

- Number of master's degrees in the U.S. increased over 43% in the past decade
- 75% of graduate students enrolled
- 90% of graduate degrees awarded
- Number of occupations requiring a master’s degree will increase by ~20% over next decade
### Average Expected Lifetime Earnings by Highest Level of Educational Attainment (in millions)

- **Master's Degree**: $2.5 million
- **Bachelor's Degree**: $2.1 million
- **Associate's Degree**: $1.6 million
- **Some College, No Degree**: $1.5 million
- **High School Graduate**: $1.2 million

Unemployment and Earnings by Level of Education, 2008

Unemployment Rate in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Doctoral Degree</th>
<th>Professional Degree</th>
<th>Master’s Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Associate’s Degree</th>
<th>Some College, No Degree</th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Less than a H.S. Diploma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$80,860</td>
<td>$79,144</td>
<td>$63,856</td>
<td>$50,856</td>
<td>$38,272</td>
<td>$33,540</td>
<td>$30,732</td>
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Note: Median annual salaries were derived by multiplying median weekly earnings by 52.
Global Economy

- “the Death of Distance.”
  - “Thanks to globalization, driven by modern communications and other advances, workers in virtually every sector must now face competitors who live just a mouse-click away in Ireland, Finland, China, India, or dozens of other nations whose economies are growing.”
  - “the nation is unlikely to receive some sudden “wakeup” call; rather, the problem is one that is likely to evidence itself gradually over a surprisingly short period.”
National Interest

- “We can no longer take for granted America’s continued leadership in innovation and competitiveness.”
- “Many…have expressed serious concerns about the capacity of our nation to compete in the 21st century.”
- “A highly skilled workforce operating at the frontiers of knowledge creation and professional practice is key to America’s competitiveness and national security.”
- “The United States must find ways to nurture a broader and more diverse talent pool to be successful in the knowledge-based economy.”

Out of Crisis Comes Opportunity

- Education with global perspective
- Innovative programs
- Funding
- Increasing opportunities for underrepresented groups
  - The browning and the graying of America

0-49% Moderate Non-White Growth
Non-White population accounted for less than half the growth

50-99% Fast Non-White Growth
Non-White population accounted for more than half the growth

100+ White population declined/Rapid Non-White Growth
All growth due to Non-white population in addition to replacing white population loss

U.S. total net Non-White growth 64%
In virtually every state, Non-white growth outpaced White growth.
Aging America: U.S. Population 65 and older, selected years, 1996–2030 (in millions)
Good for Society

- “Increasingly, graduate school is where future professionals obtain the knowledge and skills needed to solve big, complex problems.”
- “Scholars educated at the graduate level in such fields as science, mathematics, humanities, arts, and social sciences are critically important to our quality of life and the cultural and social fabric of society.”
“many international students remain in the United States after they complete their studies, starting companies that create jobs or contributing to the public good in other ways. Those who return to their home countries often assume leadership positions and maintain connections with the United States, fostering positive diplomatic relations and enhanced understanding.”
Good for …

- Improved Health and quality of life
- Higher participation in civic activities
- Better educated children
- Providing leadership in education, non-profit, and government sectors
Graduate Programs at NDSU

- [http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/graduate_programs/](http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/graduate_programs/)
- Doctorate, Masters, Graduate Certificates
- Supportive academic community
- Well rounded experience
  - Student organizations
  - Experiential learning opportunities
  - Global perspectives

SUCCESS