

Planning for Graduate Studies



> Considering Graduate Studies?

Are you nearing the end of your degree program, considering going back to school after some time off or perhaps thinking of a career change? No matter which situation you may be in, deciding to go back to school requires making a lot of decisions.

The best place to start would be researching the many programs that are of interest to you.

Here are a few things to consider when researching a program:

■ Content

- What are you planning on studying?
- What courses are required?
- Does the program have any optional courses?
- Are you going to study in a single, multi-discipline or professional education program?
- At times, students may come from a different undergraduate degree.

■ Course or thesis-based

- In a thesis-based program, students spend more time on research than course work, and complete a thesis at the end of their program.
- In a course-based program, students have more courses and may have to complete a project or paper at the end of their program.

■ Faculty

- Review faculty members in the program you are interested in. See if there are any

common interests you may share that are similar to your learning goals.

■ Admission requirements

- Do you have the basic requirements to be accepted into the program? These requirements include: GPA, undergraduate courses, admission exam results, work and volunteer experience.

■ Fees

- What are the costs associated with entering the program?
- Is there financial assistance available?

■ Residence or distance programs

- Residency is required for a large number of graduate programs.
- In some cases, programs can be completed entirely online.
- Some programs have a combination of distance and residency.

■ Length of program

- It is important to find out how long it will take to complete your graduate program. Personal circumstance (job, family, etc.) may determine whether you pursue the program now, or wait until later.
- How long it will take you to complete the program is typically identified on the university website.

■ Is your program approved by the Ministry?

- Visit www.aet.alberta.ca/institutions for a list of post-secondary institutions in Alberta with approved programs.

For more information on Alberta's graduate programs, visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

> Athabasca University
<http://fgs.athabascau.ca>

> University of Alberta
www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca

> University of Calgary
www.grad.ucalgary.ca

> University of Lethbridge
www.uleth.ca/graduatestudies

> Concordia University
College of Alberta
<http://graduatestudies.concordia.ab.ca>

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