

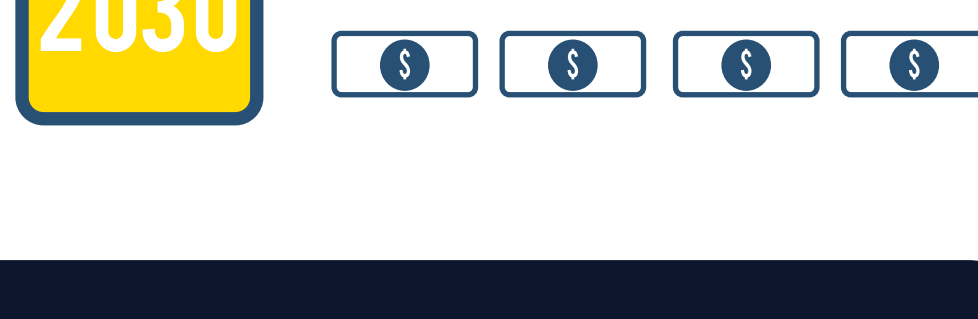
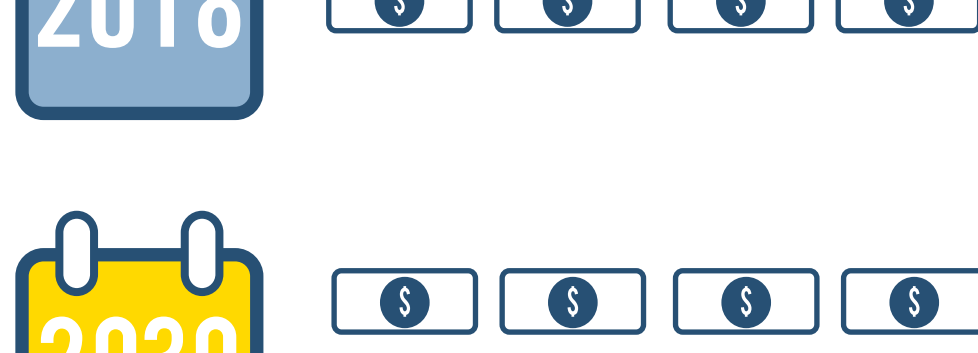
TOP REASONS YOU SHOULD GO TO GRAD SCHOOL IN D.C.

NOW (INSTEAD OF LATER)

RIISING TUITION RATES: Let's talk about inflation in higher ed.

For a multiplicity of reasons, higher education continues to have one of the fastest inflation rates of any commodity. If you're thinking you may want to go to graduate school in the future, you should consider applying sooner rather than later.

- At a 5% increase per year, higher education has one of the fastest inflation rates of any commodity.
- The cost of higher education has surged more than 538% since 1980.
- By 2030, the cost of graduate school will have doubled.



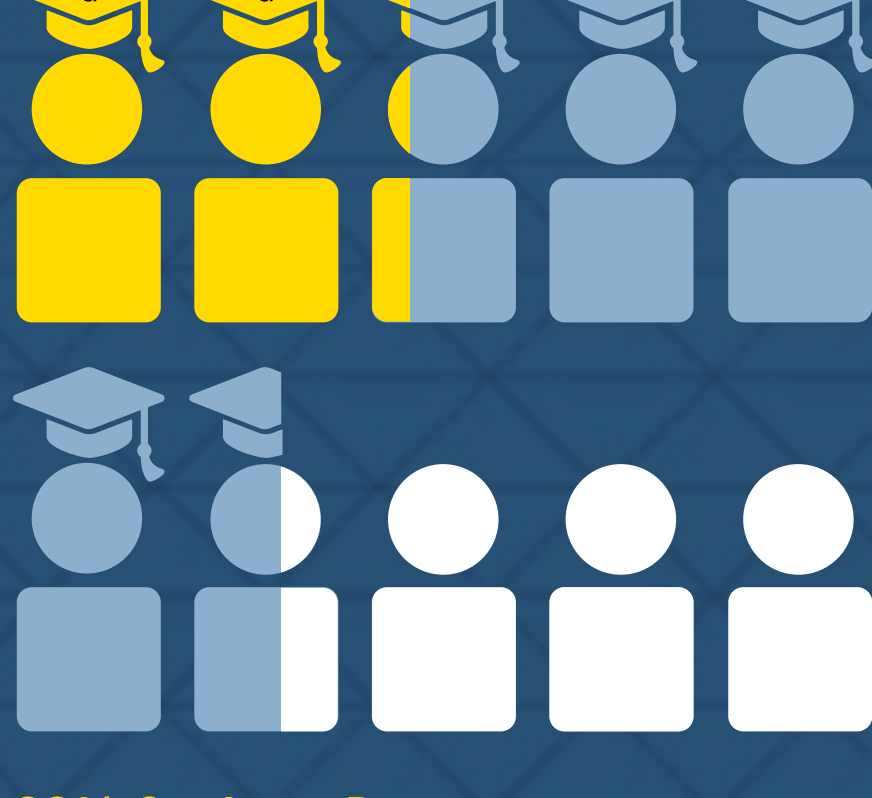
“Graduate School is important because it is helping me to understand where I fit into my field — I found a niche, entered the Human Resource Management program with a sincere interest in talent development. Through a number of hands-on projects and assignments, I've learned the value of coaching and training within an organizational setting, preparing me to become an effective leader in the job setting.”

-Dalena Harris, '18 M.S. Human Resource Management

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: Master's degree holders have advantages over those with just a bachelor's degree.

In the most highly educated metropolitan areas in the country, a graduate degree will sharpen your skills, broaden your knowledge base, make you more attractive to employers, and qualify you for higher-level career positions.

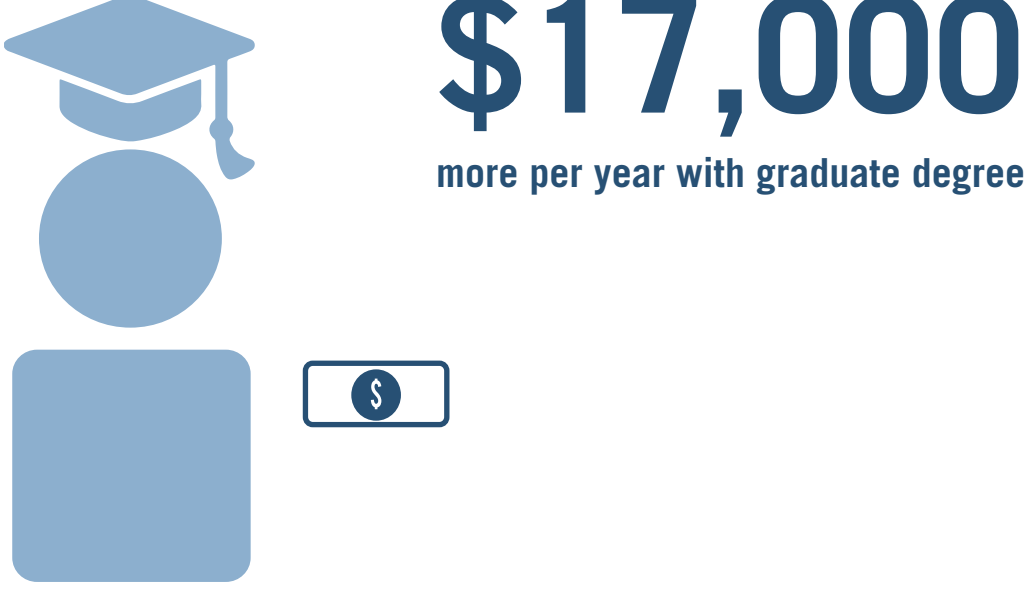
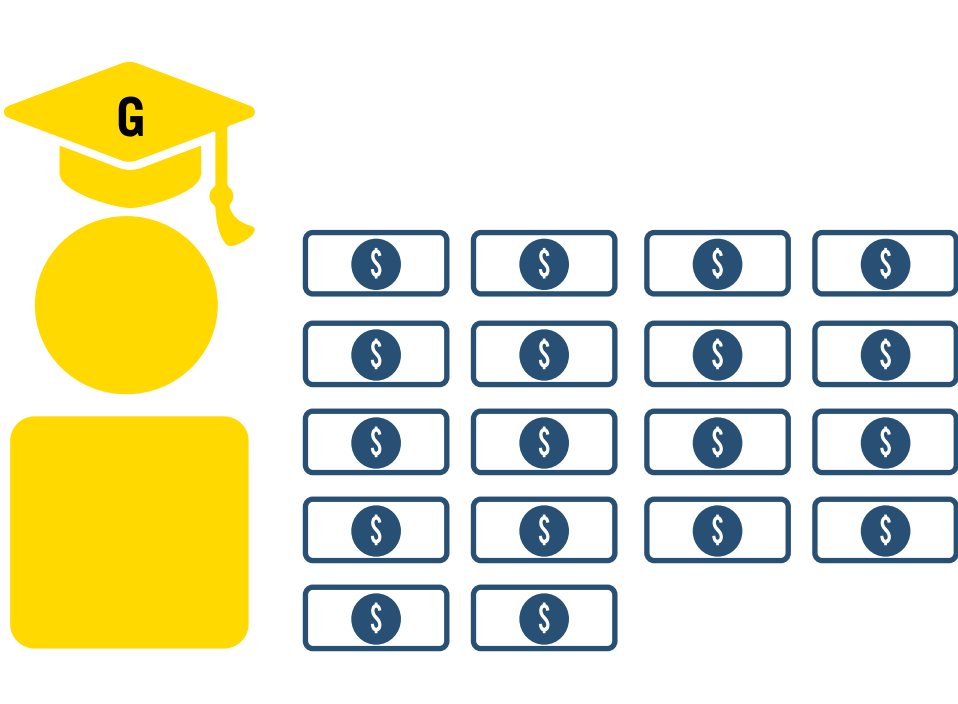
- Data shows that Washington D.C. is the most educated metropolitan area in the country.
- Only 34% of people do not have a college degree in the DMV.
- As recent as 4 years ago, about 23% of professionals over the age of 25 held a graduate or professional degree in the Washington D.C. region.



23% Graduate Degrees
25 Years old <
43% Bachelor Degrees
34% No College Degree

“A doctoral degree signifies to the world, subject matter expertise in particular field. Being equipped with this degree will not only help propel my own career aspirations but hopefully those of others in the health care field as well.”

-Heather Taylor, '18 Doctor of Nursing Practice



INCREASED SALARY: Make more \$\$\$, sooner.

A graduate degree often makes employees eligible for a salary increase. Getting that raise sooner rather than later will affect how much you make over the course of your career!

- Graduate degree holders make an average of \$17,000 more per year than bachelor's degree holders.
- On average, individuals with a master's degree or higher make 30% more than those who have only received a bachelor's degree.
- Master's degrees will typically earn about \$400,000 more than their bachelor's degree counterparts over their lifespan.

“Since my enrollment in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, I have built meaningful relationships with my professors: I've gotten three valuable research opportunities and excellent letters of recommendation.”

-Bethany Kahoe, '18 M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

LIFESTYLE FLEXIBILITY: Is it harder to go back later?

With life changes like marriage, children, buying a house, or starting an inflexible job, finding the time to go back to school to get your graduate degree only gets more difficult.

- The average graduate student today is 33 years old.
- Going to grad school now will result in lower "opportunity cost:" If you need to take some time off from work to complete your degree, that's okay! Once you earn your grad degree, you will enter the workforce with a competitive edge, sharpened skills, and an experienced perspective.
- Also, you build a strong academic network at a young age, which can help you in your career — earlier.



You have to believe that the sacrifices you are making today to complete your advanced degree will all be worth it.

-Jeanette Snook, '17 M.S. Cybersecurity

AFFORDING YOUR ADVANCED DEGREE: How can you fund graduate school?



30%

of education funding covered by Federal grants

The professional advantages of a graduate degree, such as employment opportunities, promotions and higher salary, are becoming exceedingly sought after nowadays. But with tuition rates increasing every year and the burden of student loans, a graduate degree can seem financially stressful for many college graduates.

- 44.2 million Americans take advantage of financial aid opportunities to fund their education.
- Federal grants account for 30% of graduate education funding.
- Graduate students can borrow up to \$20,500 with the FAFSA.

“The professors at Marymount allow students to pursue their interests, and also recognize that many of the students do work full-time in addition to taking one to three classes a week. Experiencing that kind of support and understanding really motivated me throughout the past year.”

-Kristina Heino, '17 M.Ed.

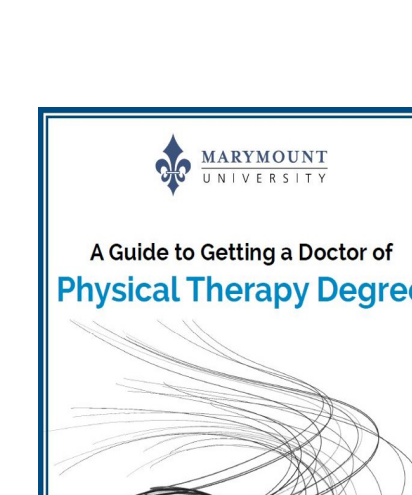
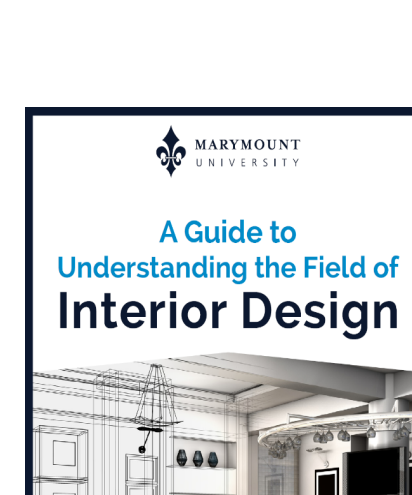
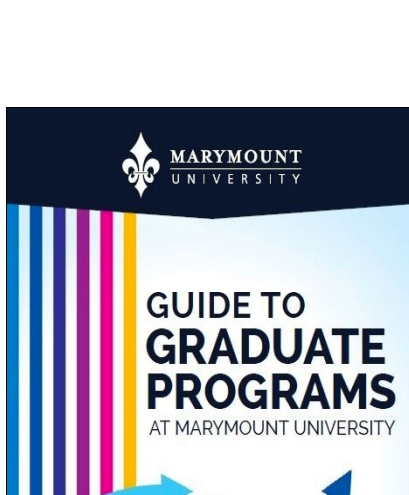
GRADUATE SCHOOL OUTLOOKS: You're not alone!

- The total number of people with master's degrees is supposed to increase 30% by 2026.
- Of the 55 million job openings between 2010 and 2020, 11% of job openings will require a master's degree — that's about 6 million job opportunities.
- BLS projects that jobs in the STEM fields will be the fastest growing between 2012-2022, with more than 1 million jobs being added.

“The advice I would give to a student considering pursuing a master's degree would include the following: from the start, realize that the what you are about to embark upon is going to be difficult and challenging, but don't forget - you are not alone! Your fellow students, and your professors, will be with you on your journey to gain your education and will not give up on you - they will make sure you succeed.”

-Sara Heflin, '18 M.A. English & Humanities

MORE GRADUATE PROGRAM RESOURCES FROM MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



If you're thinking of pursuing a graduate degree in the near future, the professionals and faculty at Marymount want you to know that we're available to answer any questions you may have, so feel free to visit our website or contact us by phone at 703-284-5901.

We also invite you to download one of our informative, free guides!

VISIT THE RESOURCE LIBRARY

TO ACCESS ALL OF OUR GRADUATE EDUCATION RESOURCES, CHECK OUT OUR GRADUATE EDUCATION RESOURCE LIBRARY HERE!

Click [here](#) to see a list of sources we used when researching content for this infographic.