

THE GAP YEAR

What is the gap year?

→ A portion of time between undergraduate and graduate school

Is it okay if I take a year or two off before returning to school?

Yes!

- Many new graduates want to attend graduate or professional school, but are unsure of the discipline or type of program that they would like to pursue.
- Some may want or be required to experience working in their field for a few years with a prospect of graduate school as a long term goal.
- Due to high competitiveness within graduate programs, some may be asked to gain experience and reapply in future years.

What should I do during the gap year?

Gain experience within your field of interest!

- Working
- Internships
- Volunteer
- Research
- Observations
- Field experience
- Travel

There are pros and cons of a gap year!

The pros and cons aside, taking a gap year or not taking a gap year totally depends on your specific situation. A gap year is perfect for some situations and not for others.

Pros	Cons
You can travel and gain experience	It may be tough to get back into your studies
Time to grow and reevaluate	You may have to retake tests and classes
A chance to save money	A generation gap

Additional resources about the gap year:

Peterson's Guide to Graduate School: A Guide to Potential Graduate Students

<https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/guide-students-graduate-school.aspx>

University of California, Berkeley: The Gap Year Between Graduation and Graduate School

<https://career.berkeley.edu/Grad/TheGapYear>

GradSchool.com About Education Should You Take Time Off Before Applying to Graduate School?

<http://gradschool.about.com/cs/shouldyougo/a/now.htm>