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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can travel and gain experience</td>
<td>It may be tough to get back into your studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time to grow and reevaluate</td>
<td>You may have to retake tests and classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>A chance to save money</td>
<td>A generation gap</td>
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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