

Doctoral Study

Pursuing a Ph.D. can be one of the most rewarding and challenging endeavors you will undertake. Understanding the nature of graduate study is the first step of the application process, and the following web-based resources are available to assist you in this regard. (Please note that the Graduate School does not maintain these websites, and the descriptions below are subject to change.) Nothing, however, can substitute for specific information from each of the programs to which you plan to apply. Like undergraduate schools, graduate schools are very different from one another, and your experience at graduate school will vary widely depending on the institution and program you choose. It may be useful to talk with faculty members from the programs you are considering and with students already enrolled in them.

When augmented by information about specific programs of interest to you, the following sites may also be helpful:

The [Council of Graduate Schools](#) is an organization that represents the interests of the graduate education community. Its website, while geared towards the institutional needs of graduate education programs, also has a section titled "[Resources for Students](#)" with useful information about fellowships and financial aid, graduate student organizations, and sources of information about graduate school.

["At Cross Purposes: What the experiences of today's doctoral students reveal about doctoral education"](#) by Chris Golde and Timothy Dore is a summary of the findings of a national survey that looks at the experiences of doctoral students in the arts and sciences. The website contains the full report and also has links to other works by the authors, including one piece titled "[Advice for prospective doctoral students.](#)"

[Re-envisioning the Ph.D.](#) was a program funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts to identify best practices in graduate education and bring together national leaders to develop strategies for the future. Although the program ended in 2003, the graduate school at the University of Washington continues to maintain the initiative's website, including a section titled "[Ph.D. Resources.](#)"