

## **DECIDING: IS GRADUATE SCHOOL IN YOUR FUTURE?**

### **Questions to Ask Yourself...**

- Is it necessary for my career interests?
- Am I willing to relocate for program I like?
- What opportunities does this open?
- Would working first be beneficial?
- How long does a typical program take?
- Is there anything that would prevent my success?
- Am I competitive for admission?
- Am I prepared for the potential student debt involved?

Some programs require experience within the field prior to admittance. Even if it is not required, it is a good idea to gain professional experience while pursuing the advanced degree because without experience a first job search can be more challenging.

### **USE YOUR UNDERGRADUATE YEARS TO PREPARE FOR GRADUATE ADMISSION:**

- Get involved in research activities or an internship related to your desired field.
- Get to know several faculty members well through research, classes, and activities.
- Actively participate in and/or lead academic-related student organizations.
- Attend academic/professional conferences, ideally as a presenter at some point.
- Try to get published before you apply: Submit your work to student journals in your field, get listed on a professor's article, present at a student and/or professional conference, or submit to a major journal. These are especially important in applying to competitive programs.