

MARCH 7, 2022

LEARN MORE ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

Howard Graham, Director of the Jayhawk Career Network, Alumni Association
Amanda Ostreko, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Graduate Enrollment Management
Nicole Reiz, Director for Professional Development, Office of Graduate Studies

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

- Introductions
- Deciding whether to go to graduate school
- What graduate school looks like
- Resources

INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA

Please note that this session is being recorded.

A graduate degree may be required for your desired professional field

- Graduate degree often required in the fields of:
 - Business
 - Education
 - Healthcare and social service
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- For more information on specific occupations, visit:
 - <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2020/article/education-level-and-openings.htm>
 - <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2018/article/graduate-degree-outlook.htm>

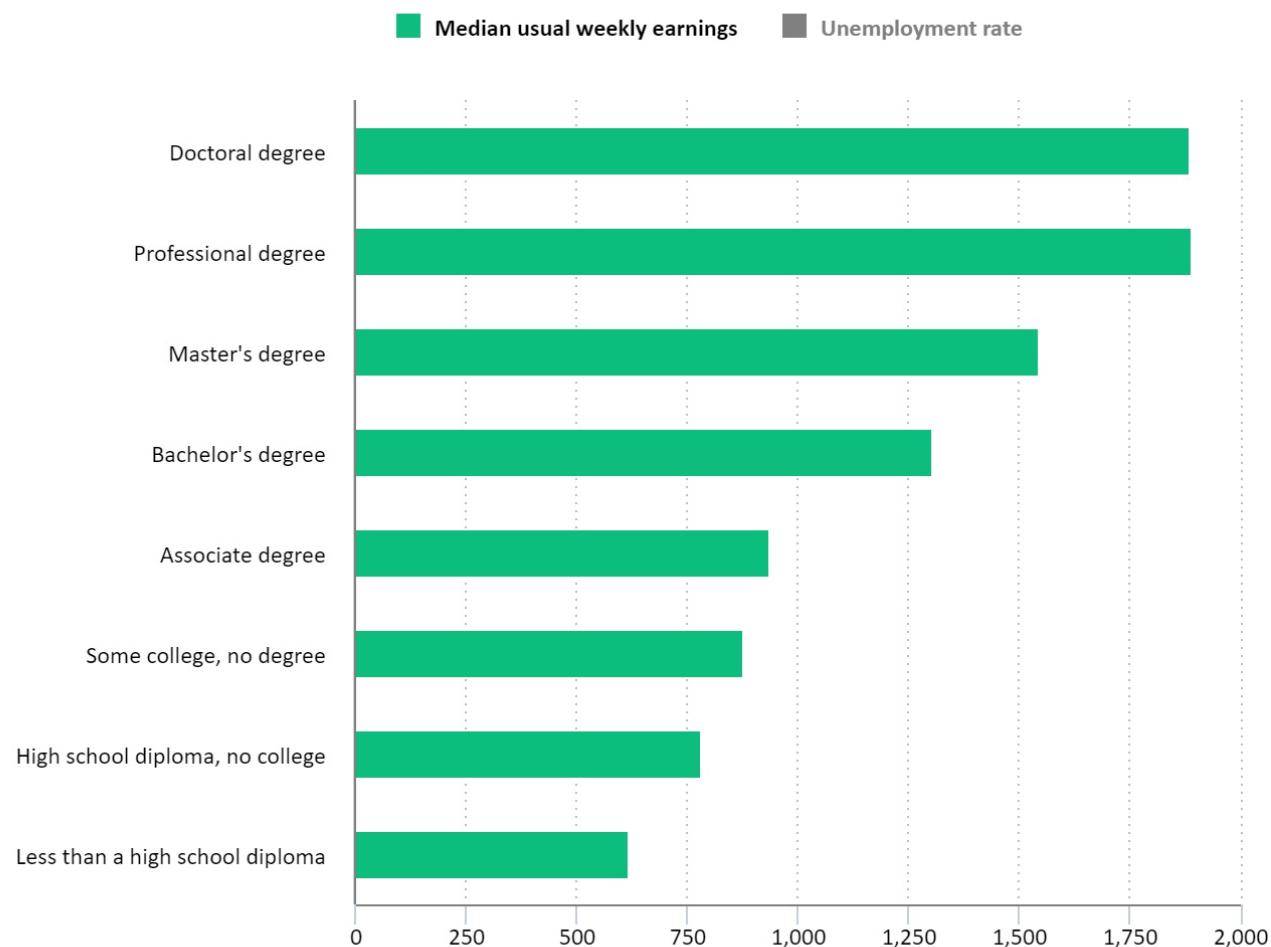
DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

WHY
ATTEND?

A graduate degree may improve your career and potential earnings

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020

Click legend items to change data display.



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Population Survey.

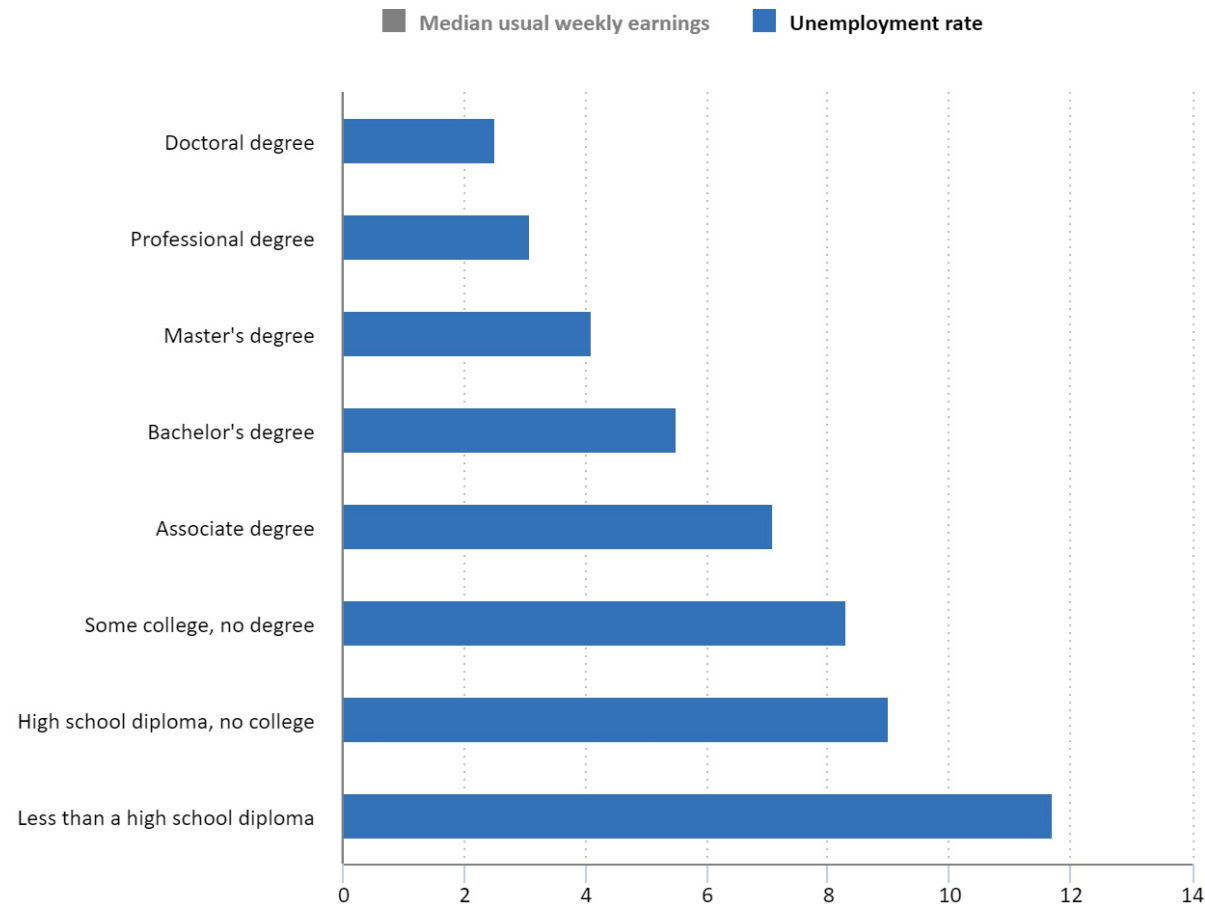
DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

WHY
ATTEND?

A graduate degree may improve your employment stability

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020

Click legend items to change data display.



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

WHY
ATTEND?

A graduate degree may increase your professional options and networking opportunities

- Opportunities for networking through:
 - Classmates
 - Faculty
 - Assistantship
 - Research
 - Internships/practicums
 - Professional organizations

DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

WHY
ATTEND?

A graduate degree may nurture your intellectual curiosity and spark passion for you to impact social change

- Opportunity to:
 - Immerse yourself in specific area of interest
 - Contribute to ideas and conversations that influence society
- Profiles of recent KU graduate student discoveries:
 - Probable discovery of water vapor on “Warm Neptune” planet
 - Ancient fossil discovery in Washington state
- Check out Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Grad Impact Stories: <https://cgsnet.org/policy-advocacy/join-the-effort/gradimpact/>

DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

WHY
ATTEND?

Should you work first or immediately enroll in graduate school?

- Career goals
 - Will you need work experience? What kind (full-time, assistantship, internship, etc.)?
 - Do you need work experience to get the most out of your graduate program?
- Program and degree-level
 - Are you interested in a master's or doctoral degree?
 - Are you interested in research or a professional degree?

DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

OTHER
CONSIDERATIONS

What kind of financial and time investments are involved?

- Funding and costs
 - How will you fund your program?
 - How much are you willing to invest?
- Time commitment
 - How long should you estimate it will take to complete your program?

DECIDING
WHETHER
TO GO TO
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

OTHER
CONSIDERATIONS

Graduate School is Discipline Focused

- Participate in hands-on training
- Small class sizes
- Gain expert knowledge in a subject area and develop specialized skills
 - Masters
 - Doctoral



WHAT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
LOOKS
LIKE?

DISCIPLINE-
FOCUSED

Graduate School is Student-Centered

- Original Research, Creative Work, Practice
 - Investigate original research question
 - Create original art, music, literature, etc.
- Graduate advisor and committee
 - Common research interests
 - One-on-one interactions—do your personal work styles mesh?
 - Research group dynamics

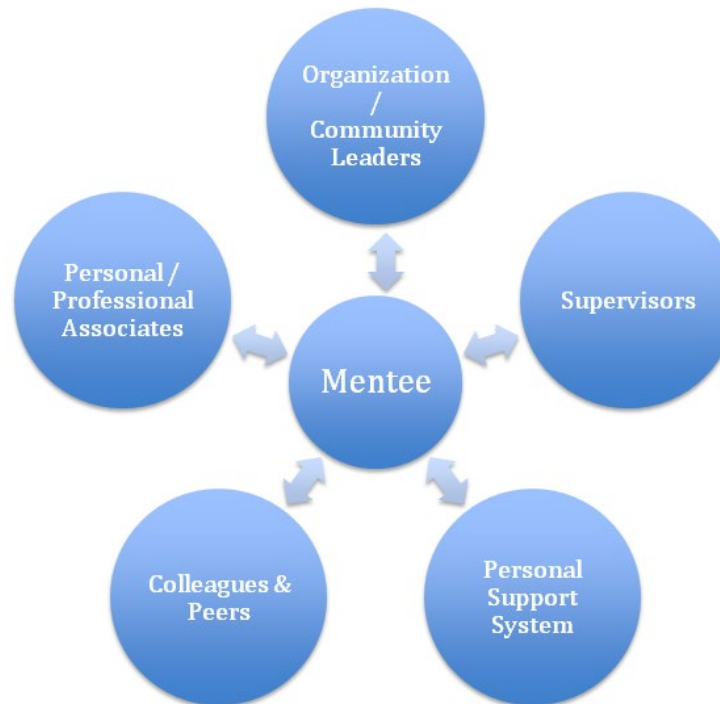
[How to choose the right advisor—Inside Higher Ed, Nov 2016](#)

WHAT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
LOOKS
LIKE?

STUDENT –
CENTERED

Mentorship Networks

- Multi-mentor systems
 - Personalized
 - Well-rounded feedback
 - Opens doors to additional connections and opportunities
 - Availability
- Types of Mentors
 - Peers
 - Professionals
 - Alumni
 - Friends and family
 - Community Leaders



WHAT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
LOOKS
LIKE?

MENTORSHIP

The **Jayhawk Career Network** gives students and alumni access to career resources, jobs, programming, events and connections at every stage of their career

Continuing Education Curate existing learning opportunities from KU campus partners including KU Edwards Campus and professional schools

Career Networking

Online and in person events for students and alumni geared towards career networking and outcomes

KU Mentoring Plus

Mentor matching program for students and alumni to create connections, provide professional insight and opportunities

Industry Engagement

"One KU" approach to industry partnerships with KU Endowment, Research, Career Centers

Career Success & Outcomes

Highlight success stories of Jayhawks across varied industries and professions

Professional Development

Career content for all KU Alumni including webinars, hands on workshops and housed in a content library

NETWORKING
AND
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
CONNECTIONS
AND SERVICES

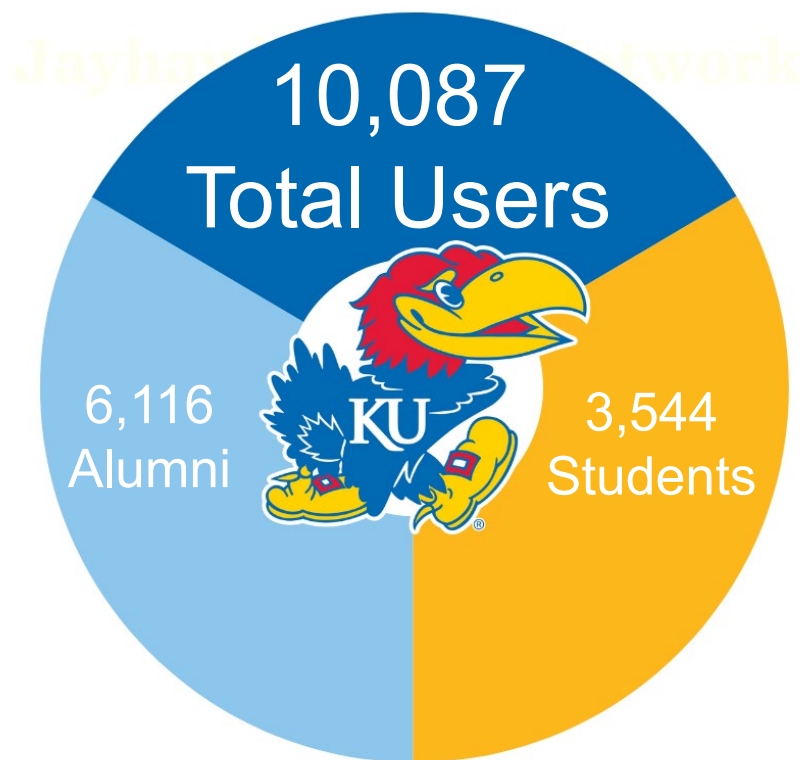
KU

**KU MENTORING: CONNECTING KU
STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY,
STAFF, AND FRIENDS**

One Jayhawk connection can change your
world.

[JOIN OUR COMMUNITY](#)

Powered by  PeopleGrove



**NETWORKING
AND
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES**

**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
CONNECTIONS
AND SERVICES**


Help Topics:

- Applying & Navigating Graduate School
- Career Industry Trends
- Internships & Job Search Strategies
- Mock Interviews
- Parenting & Career
- Work-Life Balance
- Job Shadowing
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Racial, Gender, and Sexual Identity in the Workplace
- Multi-Generational Workplaces

Also:

- Job Board for Experienced Job Seekers
- Affinity Groups
- Discussion Board


People who are **online now** or have been **recently online** [View all](#)



Stacie Doyle
Managing Director
Denver, CO, USA

Indiana University - Kelley S...
S2K Financial, S2K, Newtown...
Denver, CO, USA


[Chat Now](#)



Brandon Petz, CPA
Owner of Petz Acc...
Lawrence, KS, USA

University of Kansas, Master...
Trieagle, LLC, Petz Accounti...
Lawrence, KS, USA


[Chat Now](#)



Kaitlyn Slack
Graduate Assistan...
Lenexa, KS

The University of Kansas, M...
The University of Kansas Sof...
Lenexa, KS

[Chat Now](#)




Cicely Nash
Special Events, Pro...
Sacramento, CA, U...

University of Kansas, Bachel...
NBC Sports and Olympics, S...
Sacramento, CA, USA

[Chat Now](#)


Shared profile field: **Graduate Degree** (matched for PhD) [View all](#)



Gregory Cooksey
Developing techno...
Gaithersburg, MD

University of Kansas, Bachel...
National Institutes of Standa...
Gaithersburg, MD


[Let's Connect](#)



Charlotte Gunawar...
Professor
Albuquerque, NM

University of Kansas, PhD - ...
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM


[Let's Connect](#)



Erik Willis
Research Fellow
Chapel Hill, NC

University of Kansas, PhD - ...
University of North Carolina...
Chapel Hill, NC

[Let's Connect](#)



Sarah Bassett, PhD
Psychologist Work...
Washington, DC, U...

University of Kansas, Bachel...
American Political Science A...
Washington, DC, USA

[Let's Connect](#)

NETWORKING
AND
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
CONNECTIONS
AND SERVICES

Milestone Exams and Theses/Dissertations

- Milestone exams
 - Comprehensive exams
 - ❖ Oral
 - ❖ Written
 - Final Defense
 - ❖ Public presentation, performance, installation
 - ❖ Oral exam with committee
- Written
 - Thesis, non-thesis
 - Dissertation
 - May include original materials (e.g. maps, works of art, musical scores, etc.) in addition to data.

WHAT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
LOOKS
LIKE?

MILESTONE
EXAMS AND
THESES/
DISSERTATIONS

Time Investment

Unlike undergraduate courses, research and creativity do not necessarily run on a semester time-scale, nor are there clear grades associated with progress.

- Full-time (MS ~1-2yrs; PhD ~3-5 yrs)
 - 6-9 hours of coursework per semester
 - May include 20 hrs per week in Assistantship
 - Plus time for research, writing, practicing, etc.
 - May or may not include travel
- Part-time (extended time to degree)
 - 3-6 hours coursework per semester
 - Plus time for research, etc.
 - Often while working full-time job.
- Work-life balance is key to success!

WHAT
GRADUATE
SCHOOL
LOOKS
LIKE?

TIME
INVESTMENT



Learn more at Explore Graduate School Week:

<https://gograd.ku.edu/portal/gradschoolweek>

- 12 pm, Tuesday, March 8 : Application and admission process
- 12 pm, Wednesday, March 9: Funding
- Various departmental sessions throughout week

EXPLORE
GRADUATE
SCHOOL WEEK
SESSIONS

- Alumni Association: <https://kualumni.org/>
 - Jayhawk Career Network:
<https://kualumni.org/jayhawkcareernetwork/>
- KU Career Center: <https://career.ku.edu/graduate-school>
- KU Engineering Career Center:
<https://ecc.ku.edu/students/pursue-grad-school>
- Program costs: <http://affordability.ku.edu/>
- Graduate program profiles:
<http://graduate.ku.edu/current-program-profiles>
- Graduate Admissions: <https://gradapply.ku.edu/>

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2021/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>
- Idealist.org: <https://www.idealism.org/grad-schools/blog/5-good-reasons-grad-school>
- Peterson's Guide to Graduate School:
<https://www.petersons.com/blog/a-guide-for-potential-grad-students-should-you-go-to-graduate-school/>

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

E-MAIL AMANDAO@KU.EDU
