

WHY PURSUE A PH.D.?



McNair Scholars Program, Park Library 339
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Why Pursue a Ph.D.?

A Doctor of Philosophy, or Ph.D., is the highest research-oriented degree that anyone can earn. The purpose of the Ph.D. is to demonstrate mastery of a particular field; this is done through intensive research and study. The majority of students are able to receive funding that covers the entire cost of their degree, in the form of teaching and research assistantships. Due to the extensive effort that one must put forth to obtain a doctorate, less than one percent of the population attains one.

A Ph.D. is extremely prestigious. Society needs individuals with this high level of education to solve problems and help enhance the lives of others. The more knowledge a person has on a certain subject, the more a person can influence policy and help advance study in the sciences and humanities (among other areas) for future generations.

There are numerous options for employment upon attaining a Ph.D. Many people choose to pursue careers as professors in an academic setting. Alternatively, research-oriented positions in government and private industry can also be an option. In many cases, a Ph.D. is required to hold leadership positions in a variety of organizations from non-profits to private companies. Still other people choose to be self-employed and work as consultants in their specific fields. The possibilities are wide open to those with a Ph.D.

Ask Yourself These Questions

- Are you passionate about a particular area of study?
- Are you eager to discover new things?
- Do you wish to become more intellectually engaged in a certain field?
- Are you goal-oriented and self-motivated?
- Do you have determination?
- Does your career goal require an advanced degree for optimal upward mobility?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider a Ph.D.

Let Us Show You How to Get Your Ph.D. For FREE - The McNair Scholars Program

Consider the Facts...

- Graduate school is fast becoming an entry-level requirement for many of the more desirable academic and other professional positions.
- By the time you graduate, your BA or BS degree will be equivalent to a HS diploma!
- According to recent surveys, Americans with a graduate degree earn an average of 35 to 50 percent more than those with just a bachelor's degree.
- The present workforce is aging. Almost 50% of college faculty will retire within 15 years!
- There is a critical shortage of underrepresented groups with advanced degrees, especially the Ph.D.
- Students like you are in great demand by graduate schools across the country.
- Without your presence, education will take on a much different look.



The Faculty Mentor Connection

A key component of achieving a Ph.D. is the opportunity to conduct original research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The relationship that is established with a faculty mentor has tremendous benefits. Graduate students are able to make new discoveries in the field as well as obtain guidance in navigating through the process of emerging as an expert in their field. Read what some of our CMU faculty have to say about obtaining a Ph.D.



Dr. Greg Colores, Department of Biology
Ph.D. in Organismic Biology
from the University of Colorado at Boulder

“You have to do it because it’s going to take you where you want to go. You don’t have to be the smartest person in the world to get a Ph.D.; it’s mostly enjoying what you do and having the determination.”



Dr. Kevin Love, Management Department
Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology
from the University of South Florida

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“I find value in a Ph.D. in terms of knowledge that it gives you and the fact that you are allowed to pursue your own interests.”
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“If you are dedicated to the profession, if you are dedicated to gathering the knowledge, then obstacles can be overcome. Working towards a Ph.D. builds a lot of positive characteristics.”



Dr. Jennifer Green, Department of History
Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University

The McNair Scholars Program aims to successfully prepare scholars for entrance into graduate school with the ultimate goal of achieving a Ph.D. We service low income and first generation college students and students considered underrepresented in graduate education.

New scholars are recruited every fall.

Please contact us at (989) 774-1364 for more information.