

The Inside Scoop *Frequently Asked Questions by Potential Graduate Students*

It's been a long time since I have been in school. Can I do this?

This is probably the most frequently asked question we hear from individuals considering graduate school. The answer is YES. Don't discount your life experience.

Why should I bother with a graduate degree? I already have one college degree...

There are dozens of reasons students choose higher education – mostly they are career related. Some businesses require higher education for career advancement. Some professions require additional education for certain kinds of state licensure. Whatever the reason, YOU are your own best investment.

How is graduate school different from undergraduate?

The main difference between the two is that the courses you take in grad school are in a field of study YOU have chosen to study. Perhaps there may be fewer “pop quizzes” and “chapter tests” and more projects and papers. Graduate work involves understanding the real “why & how” more than the “what and who”.

What do I need to do to get ready for graduate school?

Along with the application process, essays, and recommendations, prepare to take the GRE, GMAT or MAT – whichever is appropriate for your field of study. Students desiring the MBA should register for the GMAT. GREs and MATs will cover other graduate disciplines. Study books may be helpful – available for purchase or on loan at the local library. Test scores are useable for **five** years. For certain programs if you already have a master's degree, Lenoir-Rhyne does not require a retake of the GRE or MAT (this excludes the OT program).

These standardized tests probably deter more people from applying to graduate school than any other factor. Do not be fretful about it. Take it again if your score isn't what you need it to be -- JUST TAKE IT!

Can I take some classes in the graduate program to see if I can do it?

Lenoir-Rhyne University allows only students admitted to graduate programs to take graduate classes. This policy promotes a high caliber of student peers who can contribute to the program as well as class discussions on an intellectual level.

Why do you have to have all transcripts? Why can't you just use the one from the College where I earned my degree?

It is our policy to have all transcripts for the computation of a final grade point average. Some transcripts do not record grades for transfer credits, only courses that particular institution may have transferred for you.

What kind of financial aid can I expect?

Lenoir-Rhyne offers student loans to assist with your education cost. To be considered for loans, you will need to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov. We also have payment plan options or you can pay by semester.

Does Lenoir-Rhyne offer Graduate Assistantships?

Yes. Graduate Assistantships are offered through several offices on campus and are appointed on a yearly basis. Accepted students can apply for these starting each May. Part of your tuition will be covered as a part of your assistantship.

What about my undergraduate career? How much does that affect my decision to attend grad school?

Sometimes your undergrad career has a big affect depending on the field you choose. Your undergrad degree must have been earned from a regionally accredited college or university in an appropriate discipline. Then there's the cumulative grade point issue – not all of us are proud of our undergrad efforts, but each discipline has its own criteria for admission. Please check the University Catalog for relevant information, but generally, a cumulative GPA of 2.7 is about the bare minimum for grad school acceptance.

How long will it take to get the masters degree?

Most people get “in the groove” with their graduate work and progress right through their program. Some masters degree programs are longer than others. For example: The MA in Counseling is longer than the MBA program. Most programs are 36 credit hours. Many students are able to take two courses per semester and two or three in the summer sessions. Lenoir-Rhyne will allow you six years to complete your program.

What qualifications does the LR graduate faculty have?

Our graduate faculty has earned the terminal degree (highest degree in the field) in the discipline or has received specialized training in order to teach the subject matter.

When should I apply?

Each applicant submits the following items: a completed application, \$35 application fee, official transcripts from ALL schools attended, references and official test scores. Many students prefer to wait until they have all of their materials gathered and then send one big envelope to college admissions. The deadline for **completed** applications is:

August 1 for Fall Semester
December 1 for Spring Semester

May 1 for Summer Sessions
April 1 AT majors
January 31 for OT majors

When will I hear from the Lenoir-Rhyne if I have been accepted?

You will generally hear within three to four weeks of the receipt of your completed application. You will be sent an admissions decision letter.

Will I have an advisor?

Certainly... Your advisor will be a faculty member in your discipline who is assigned to you as soon as you are accepted into the graduate program. Your faculty advisor will become a close friend, mentor, confidante and cheerleader. Your success is their success!

What kind of course schedule can I expect?

L-R runs on a semester session with two summer sessions. The academic calendar applies to both undergrad and graduate schools. Classes are in a variety of formats designed to best suite the program in which you are interested. Some programs focus on evening courses while others are in the day. All of our programs emphasize classroom experience to best promote interaction with the faculty and fellow students.

May I transfer any graduate work from another graduate school?

Perhaps. Generally, no more than six credit hours may be transferable. Transfer credit is at the discretion of the Program Coordinators. See the online Catalog for more information.