

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE

Which one should you choose?

First you need to consider your career goals and research what you need to do to accomplish those career goals. If you are interested in teaching in academia, research or other specialized areas, then a Ph.D. is required. If you are looking to obtain a higher paying job, a Masters degree may work fine. This is where the research is important to determine the best option for you in your field of interest.

It will help to make the decision by finding the answers to the following questions.

- What types of jobs are earned by graduated students?
- How much financial aid is provided?
- Are there benefits to earning a Ph.D. versus a master's degree in that field?
- Am I interested in research or becoming involved in academia?

Master's:

- Usually takes 2 to 3 years to complete.
- Primarily coursework and exams.
- Some programs require a thesis or research paper, while others do not.
- Significant work experience is required for entrance to some programs, while others do not.
- Some programs require experiential education or internship experiences as part of the graduation requirements.
- It is more challenging for master's level student to find funding such as assistantships.

Doctorate:

- This is a more advanced degree than the masters.
- It takes approximately 4 to 7 years to complete or 2 to 3 years after Master's degree.
- Generally speaking, a Ph.D. program has 2 to 3 years of coursework and a year to complete a dissertation.
- Based upon your field a one year internship could be required.
- Generally, Ph.D. programs have several financial aid options such as assistantships or fellowships.
- Research if a master's or doctorate degree is preferred in your field.