

# HOW DOES A GRADUATE PROGRAM DIFFER FROM AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM?

Master's degrees and graduate certificates are graduate programs that can be pursued once you have completed a bachelor's degree. Master's degrees generally focus on greater depth and specialized knowledge within a field of study than bachelor's degrees.

The goal of a master's degree is to synthesize and apply knowledge in new ways by integrating the theoretical frameworks and current literature from the field. Learning how to communicate clearly to various audiences, from academics to policy makers, is also a key component of master's education.

## MORE ADVANCED

Since graduate programs are more advanced than undergraduate programs, credit from an undergraduate program is not transferrable into a master's program or graduate certificate, even if the courses look similar.

## MORE CHALLENGING

Graduate-level learning is also more challenging than the work done at the undergraduate level. The professors will expect more and there will be significantly more reading, writing, and research to complete.

## PREADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

It is important to remember that some graduate programs have preadmission requirements. Some may require essays, resume or CV reviews, proof of work experience in a particular field, etc. If you are interested in a program that has preadmission requirements, and are not sure if you meet admission eligibility please reach out to Academic Advising; we're happy to help!

## WE'RE READY TO SUPPORT YOU

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET,  
Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, and  
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET.



American Public  
University System



Email: [Advising@apus.edu](mailto:Advising@apus.edu) | Phone: 877-755-2787 ext. 3200

[Click here to chat with us online!](#)