



# 5

## Things to Consider for Completing Your Master's Degree

Earning a master's degree may provide enhanced career mobility, higher earnings, a sense of accomplishment and completion of an important goal.



### 1

#### **What is your goal?**

Knowing this helps you narrow your focus. Is your goal to earn a master's degree so that you can move up in your company or organization? Are you seeking a career change? Are you seeking a higher salary and having a master's degree is a way to get to that level? Is this a goal that you would just like to get done? Whatever the reason, moving forward and taking the next step is the right thing to do!

### 2

#### **How do you want to attend class?**

Online courses provide a lot of flexibility because you can participate in your courses from almost anywhere. Hybrid courses typically combine in-person experiences with online experiences to accommodate course and learner needs. In person courses provide a more traditional experience, typically at a campus location or at a remote campus location.

### 3

#### **How many courses would you like to take in a semester or term?**

A master's degree program usually requires fewer courses to complete. Programs may also differ with the number of courses that are offered or required for a semester or term. Check with a representative to learn more about how many courses are in the program and the pace at which you would like to complete them based on any program requirements that may be needed.

# 4

## How will you pay for this investment?

Financial aid is usually available for learners, even for adult learners seeking a master's degree! Education loans and grants can supplement personal funds, so check with the institution's financial aid office. Does your employer have a tuition reimbursement program? Ask them because they may provide funding for approved programs. Many companies offer up to \$5250 annually, so check with your Human Resource department. Were you or a member of your family a member of the military? Veteran-related funding is a great benefit to explore. Options are usually available so it's best to ask!

# 5

## When do you want to start?

Institutions usually have multiple starting points. Ask when those are, so that you can get started soon. Does starting in September work for you? Or, maybe October, January or May? Learning more can get you on the path sooner than you think. Waiting to start means that you are waiting to realize the benefits of earning that master's degree.

# 6

## Bonus: Accreditation!

Look for programs that have specialized accreditation. A program that has accreditation usually means that there are quality reviews of the curriculum and program that take place on a regular basis to ensure learning outcomes as advertised. Not all programs seek specialized accreditation, but many do. AACSB is an example of specialized accreditation for MBA programs.

# YOU CAN DO THIS!

Many people choose to earn a master's degree (about 13% of the U.S. population have a master's degree). You are making a great decision. You just need to take the next step.

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Accountancy (MAcc) are 100% online, accredited, and convenient. We help people reach their goals. We can help you too.

## Connect with us today to get started!

[online.mnsu.edu](http://online.mnsu.edu)

952-818-8871

[ext@mnsu.edu](mailto:ext@mnsu.edu)

