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Monday, November 26, 2001



Students discuss plans for furthering education

By LYCIA SHRUM
THE BATTALION

As graduation nears, some students are concerned about life in the "real world," while others realize that their time at school is not over yet — they still have graduate or professional school ahead.

For many students, graduate or professional school gives them a guarantee to succeed in their chosen profession. Others want to continue their education after college because of a passion to continue learning.

Dr. Douglas Starr, a professor of journalism, said a master's degree often will get one a higher salary and higher raises during his or her career. He said a bachelor's degree usually is not enough.

"Hundreds of thousands of job seekers have only the bachelor's degree," Starr said. "The master's degree puts you at the head of the line."

Dr. Clifton Griffin, the director for the Office of Graduate Studies, said the number of graduate school applicants increases during tough economic times. Yet in spite of ambitious students desiring higher education, the task of preparing for graduate school can be stressful. Some students have known they want to continue their education after college and have researched and prepared, while others only are beginning their search.

Kay Langerhans, a senior exercise physiology major, said she realized in high school that she wanted to work in medicine.

"I had an injury in high school, and during my own physical therapy, I saw what it was like," Langerhans said. "I got to see the therapist work with the other patients, and I knew that was something I wanted to do."

Langerhans said she has applied to a few universities with

physical therapy schools. According to Langerhans, an education in physical therapy includes a master's program and has similar acceptance requirements as graduate school, such as completing the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

Like Langerhans, other students are preparing to take or have already taken the GRE. Mary Catherine Paup, a senior journalism major, recently took the GRE to be accepted to

edge in another field or or one slightly differs their bachelor's degree.

John Zaccardo, a senior medical sciences major, is entering a master's in health administration. Zaccardo realized he was not interested in the scientific aspect of his science and did not want to become a doctor, so he is researching the business of science and pharmaceuticals.

"There were some things that really helped in my class about graduate school and what I wanted to do," Zaccardo said. "Some of my classes, people from different professions would and talk to us to give you an

of what opportunities are out there in the medical field for majors. The Me-

Student Center also held a fair that had different universities with grad schools you could get information on the program and talk to people. It really helped."

Some students have found that research and application process for graduate and professional schools not as stressful as they expected it to be. Zaccardo said

Griffin said the best thing for students to do is to take advantage of the resources available at the university.

"When researching graduate or professional schools, talk to your adviser or someone who has knowledge in that particular area. Make use of the faculty and staff here at A&M," Griffin said.

Langerhans said another piece of advice is to not be discouraged.

"Be sure to do what makes you happy in your choices," Langerhans said.

Other students continue their education to gain knowl-

graduate school for a masters in public relations. She described the test as being similar to that of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). Paup participated in a review course offered through Kaplan, a company that provides educational and career services such as test preparations and admission and school information.

"I recommend either taking a review course or buying a review book with a disk to practice because it takes a while to get use to it," Paup said.

Paup said it is important to check with graduate schools to find out what they look at and the score to be accepted.

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