What Are My Grad School Options?

**DEGREE TYPES**

**Professional Master’s Degree**
- Time Commitment: 1-2 years full time
- Educational Content: Practical training, skills, and integrated experience in a narrow field/industry
- Examples: MEng, MPH, MBA, MSMS, etc.
- Other Considerations: Usually a final degree

**Research Master’s Degree**
- Time Commitment: 1-2 years full time
- Educational Content: Research training, experience, and independent study in narrow field/industry
- Examples: MS, MSCR, MA, etc.
- Other Considerations: Can be a final degree or a step towards a PhD

**Professional Doctoral Degree**
- Time Commitment: 3-5 years full time
- Educational Content: Deep technical and theoretical training for a specific profession
- Examples: MD, DJS, etc.
- Other Considerations: Usually a final degree

**Research Doctorate or PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)**
- Time Commitment: 4-6+ years full time
- Educational Content: Deep research and theoretical training with independent study in a specific field
- Examples: PhD, EdD, etc.
- Other Considerations: Usually a final degree culminating in a dissertation

**ACADEMIC FOCUS**

**University Specific Programs**
- Conduct an inclusive search for your particular interest. Universities categorize majors and programs differently based on the nature of the departments and researchers. For example: BU affiliates medical devices with the BME department, while other institutions affiliate it with mechanical engineering.

**Faculty Research**
- Find faculty who conduct research that aligns with your interests. A critical part of graduate school is exposure to faculty research. Familiarize yourself with the research focus at different institutions to find programs that you prepare you for your desired path.