

BME Master's Decision Matrix (Self-Assessment)

This document is designed to help you decide whether pursuing a master's degree is the right next step, the right later step, or perhaps unnecessary for your goals.

Step 1: Define your target outcome.

What professional role(s) are you aiming for in the next 3–5 years?

Do you know specific job titles you would apply for today? Yes Somewhat No

Step 2: Score each factor (0–10) and sum.

| Category | Guiding Question | Score (0–10) |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Career Alignment | Does a master's directly help you access your target role(s)? | |
| Clarity of Purpose | Do you have a clear reason for pursuing a master's? | |
| Skills Gap | Are there specific skills you need that a master's provides? | |
| Employer Expectation | Do employers in your target field value a master's? | |
| Timing | Is now the right time vs. gaining experience first? | |
| Financial Readiness | Can you pursue this without financial strain? | |
| Opportunity Cost | Are you comfortable delaying income for 1–2 years? | |
| Alternatives Considered | Have you explored work or other pathways? | |
| Experience Substitute | Could work replace what you'd gain? (reverse) | |
| Decision Confidence | Do you feel confident in your reasoning? | |

Step 4: What does your score mean?

80–100: Strong case to pursue now

60–79: Likely beneficial, consider timing

40–59: Mixed case, consider experience first

Below 40: Likely not necessary now

Step 5: Do a reality check.

What's your primary reason to pursue a Master's Degree: Career Skills Unsure External

Other: _____

What will you do if you do NOT pursue a master's: _____

What if you pursue a master's and it doesn't work out: _____

What is an alternative next step: _____

Step 6: What's your final decision?

Pursue a Master's now Pursue a Master's later Gain work experience first Need More Info