

Should I get a PhD and if so, is a Post-Doc Warranted?

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To Get a Ph.D. or not....That is the question!

Reasons to **NOT** pursue a Ph.D.

- I can't find a job
- My girlfriend/boyfriend will be in school for several more years
- I like living in a university community
- I don't want to make a decision on a career
- I enjoy the life of being a student
- It will allow me to make a lot of money in academia (or business)
- I want to coach the livestock judging team

Reasons to Pursue a Ph.D.

- I love science and to think logically
- I like research and unlocking biological secrets
- The career I want to pursue requires a Ph.D.
- I have an opportunity to work in a quality program
- This provide me with the right training for a career and to become an independent thinker

Is a Post-Doc Warranted?

Objectives of Post-Doctoral training

- Faculty development program
 - Help develop critical thinking skills
 - Develop individual into an independent researcher
 - Hone grant writing skills
- Expand depth of training
- Shortened time in Ph.D. programs today doesn't allow for students to mature into independent researchers in Ph.D. programs

Should I do a Post-Doc?

- When advisable
 - Planning on a research career
 - Must be able to support my program within a few years
 - Is mentoring provided?
 - Will I have opportunities to broaden myself?
 - Will I have opportunities to write grant proposals?
 - I will be joining a quality program
 - Go to a different school
 - Stretch yourself by going into a different field
 - Other candidates for the position I would likely have post-doc experience

Should I do a Post-Doc?

- When not advisable or necessary
 - Career choice of industry, teaching or extension
 - Not in a well-respected program
 - Will not have a documented outcome or achievement
 - Too many years of post-doc can be a negative