

Graduate School: Timeline to Apply

Junior Year/Summer before Senior Year

- Get internship or research opportunities during the school year or summer.
- Prepare to take admissions tests (GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, etc.).
- Identify, **at the very least**, 6 schools you want to apply to including “reach,” “pretty sure,” and “safe” schools.
- Take entrance exams after **at least** one month of prep. You can identify **up to four** schools to send your GRE scores to **for free**. After that, score reports are (at this point in time) \$26/school.

Senior Year

September/October:

- Take entrance exams (if not previously taken). Recommend taking the entrance exams **before school starts up again**.
- Write a draft of your personal statement. **Be sure to answer the questions they are asking!**
- Identify 3-5 professors to write **strong** letters of recommendation. Provide faculty with a copy of your personal statement and resume.
- Check with the schools you’re applying to for **application fee waivers**.

October/November:

- Fill out application forms.
- Applications will be due anywhere from **November through April**.
- Complete your personal statement/career goals. Have your major advisor and career services provide feedback and editing.
- Contact registrar’s office to get official copies of transcripts sent to prospective schools.

November/December:

- Mail off all application materials **at least two weeks before the due date**. If possible, type your application forms or complete them online to ensure readability.
- Most schools send notification if your application was received and if it is complete.
- **Always check with programs to verify your application was received and complete.**

January:

- Fill out the Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA). Yes, **you will need to do this for graduate school** too! However, **you are automatically considered an independent student** in graduate school so you will qualify for **financial aid based on your income, not your parents**.
- Plan for a possible admissions interview. Contact Career Services to set up a mock graduate school interview if needed.