

Graduate School Application Timeline

Here's a suggested schedule for students applying to graduate school in the fall or those returning to school.

Summer before your senior year/8-12 months in advance

- Begin exploring graduate programs you may be interested in, and let undergrad instructors know you're interested in graduate school and seek out their advice.
- Contact potential programs and request information. Get copies of program applications and familiarize yourself with them. Make note of any particular areas that require special attention or extra time.
- Prepare for the GRE or other appropriate standardized exams. Download the free test prep programs from the GRE website. Consider taking a practice test. If your practice scores are lacking, consider signing up for a test preparation course.
- Start preparing your statement of purpose and/or personal statement. Speak with the faculty members you intend to ask for letters of recommendation.

Fall/6-8 months in advance

- Take the GRE General Test or other necessary standardized exams (GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, etc.).
- Complete the first drafts of your written statements and submit them to faculty members and/or admissions counselors at your undergraduate program for review.
- Research and contact potential financial aid resources. Determine application requirements and deadlines.
- Ask faculty members for letters of recommendation and provide them with all of the necessary information they will need to write a strong, effective recommendation for you.
- Order your official undergraduate transcripts.
- Register for the GRE Subject Test if required.
- Start narrowing your list of potential graduate programs.

January and February/4-6 months in advance

- Take the GRE Subject Test if required.
- Complete the final drafts of your written statements.
- Follow-up with faculty members regarding submission of their letters of recommendation.
- Complete and submit your program applications.
- Apply for fellowships and other financial aid sources.
- Contact the admissions offices for the programs you have applied to and make sure all required documents were received.
- Follow-up regarding financial aid applications. Fill out the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application if you haven't already.
- Visit the campuses of prospective programs. Meet faculty and current students. Visit the admissions office.
- Prepare for admissions interviews.
- Relax a little!

March and April/3 months or less

- Receive acceptances and rejections. Consult with faculty and admissions counselors at your undergraduate program for advice on where to go.
- Notify the program you choose of your acceptance. Notify the programs that you are declining.

The Career Center is more than happy to assist you at any point in your grad school application process!