

Graduate School Admission Timeline

Although graduation seems far away during the junior year, the time will fly. Career Development recommends the following timeline for those considering going straight to graduate or professional school after graduation. This document will guide you through the process during the junior and senior years. Additional help is available from Career Development, the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and academic departments.

Junior Year

1. Begin to investigate graduate programs and professional schools.
2. Speak to Career Development advisors and professors about possible career directions and relevant graduate degree programs.
3. Shadow a professional within your intended field of work to get insight into the field.
4. Join pre-professional organizations on campus such as the Pre-Law Society or the Pre-Physical Therapy Club.
5. Begin to research programs and check on admission requirements, such as graduate test requirements and prerequisite coursework.
6. Plan to take appropriate graduate school exam: GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, DCAT, etc. Prep courses for these exams may be beneficial to those who want a more structured approach and personal guidance.
7. Budget for admission exam fees, common application service fees and any additional school application fees.
8. Plan campus visits for summer.

Senior Year

1. Prioritize your programs and schools.
2. Identify the schools where you will be competitive for admission.
3. Request applications.
4. Track application deadlines for each program and prepare in advance.
5. Develop an understanding of how your academic and co-curricular experiences set you apart from other candidates.
6. Consider which faculty members to ask for letters of recommendation.
7. Research sources of financial aid.
8. Utilize services in the Academic Resource Center to prepare your statement of purpose and other essays.
9. Ask faculty and staff in your academic department, Career Development or the Academic Resource Center to read your essays and provide feedback. Take their advice!
10. Ask faculty for letters of recommendation. Provide faculty with a copy of your transcript, each program's recommendation form, and your statement of purpose.
11. Arrange for your official transcript to be sent to each program to which you apply. If possible, request that the Registrar hold your transcript until fall semester grades are final.
12. Applications for graduate assistantships, fellowships and other sources of financial aid often require a separate application.
13. Keep a record of your application forms, other admission materials and submission dates for each school to which you apply.
14. Most schools send a postcard or email upon receipt of each application. Keep track of these. If you don't receive a postcard or letter, contact the admissions office by email or phone to ensure that your application has been received before the deadline.