

Graduate School Application Timeline



Researching graduate schools typically begins about one year prior to the application due date. This will give you time to research a variety of schools and programs before formally applying. The majority of schools have an application due date between early December and March for programs beginning in the fall. It is important that you begin preparing application materials i.e. (essay, letters of recommendation) well in advance of the due date. If standardized test scores are part of the application this will allow you adequate time to prepare and complete the tests. Here is a sample timeline for graduate school application. Be sure to keep in mind that each graduate school has different requirements and deadlines.

Junior Year- Begin researching graduate programs. Discuss your ideas and options with your advisor and faculty. Research and become knowledgeable of general graduate school application requirements and procedures. Begin preparing for and register for any required standardized tests that are required for graduate school applications.

Senior Year (Fall) - Continue work on applications, take required exams (GRE,LSAT,MCAT, etc.), obtain letters of recommendation, complete application essays, and begin to narrow down school choices.

Senior Year (Winter) - Submit completed applications to graduate schools.

Senior Year (Spring) - Confirm applications were received by the schools. Begin researching graduate assistantships if desired. Complete financial aid (FAFSA) applications. Visit institutions that have admitted you, talk with faculty and staff to help make an informed decision.

Tips for completing applications

- Research schools and programs of study
- Talk to students and faculty at the schools you are interested in attending
- Obtain letters of recommendation from individuals who know you well. Often, individuals who are aware of your abilities, interests, and accomplishments will provide you with strong support in the application process. Some options include mentors, employers, professors, and professionals in your field of study
- Research financial aid (public and private sources) Fill out FAFSA application.
- If you are currently working, check with your employee benefits department to see if they offer tuition assistance
- Check application dates
- Contact financial aid office at the school you want to attend (check deadlines, some are far in advance)
- Contact test preparation services, courses, dates
- Check GRE, GMAT, LSAT or other appropriate bulletins for test dates/application. Allow adequate time to retake the test a second time before applications are due, if necessary
- Schedule an interview (if applicable)
- Prepare a summary of work experience (resume)
- Send for transcripts from your undergraduate institution
- Prepare a statement of financial resources (if necessary)
- Be sure you've completed all the requirements/documents and include application fee when sending your application