



## Timeline for Applying to Graduate School

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This is a general timeline for the total application process, assuming you seek to enroll in a graduate program during a fall term. Some graduate programs have firm deadlines; some have “rolling admissions” and accept applications year-round. Pay careful attention to individual deadlines for the programs you are considering and plan accordingly.

Spring/Summer (approximately 18 months in advance of the fall in which you plan to enroll)

- Begin talking to faculty for recommendations and suggestions of programs.
- Use online guides to graduate programs to research programs. Review program websites.
- Write a general rough draft of personal statement.
- Begin to prepare for standardized tests.

August – September

- Meet with faculty to discuss personal statement and goals, continue to research and evaluate programs to narrow down application pool.
- Continue to ask faculty about providing recommendation letters.
- Investigate application procedures and timelines for all programs of interest.
- Sign up for standardized tests.

October

- Decide on programs you wish to apply to, usually about 5-8.
- Take standardized tests.
- Update your resume.
- Review all financial aid application requirements and research options.
- Complete your essays and personal statements. Be certain you have tailored your writing to the questions asked by each individual program!
- Order transcripts from undergraduate institutions.

November

- Complete application forms.
- Submit FAFSA.
- Provider recommenders with all details, instructions, materials needed for recommendation letters.

December – February

- Submit applications. Even if deadlines are later, it is good to apply early.
- Apply for any financial aid options as early as possible, as well, so that you have the most available options.
- Contact programs about the possibility of visiting; take trips if possible or go on virtual tours.
- Participate in Admissions interviews (not always used, may occur earlier in the process).

March – April

- Learn about Admission usually no later than mid-to late-April (often much earlier).
- Notify schools of your decision and submit your deposit.
- Notify your recommenders and send thank yous.