

This **Timeline 1** is a *SUGGESTED* layout of how one can pace themselves as they anticipate applying for (math) graduate programs starting in fall semester. Some things could be moved around or condensed. **Note:** *this is for someone who would like to apply in the fall and has had some research experience (either a senior thesis project or REU) with a professor. BUT you don't need to have prior research experience to have a successful graduate school application cycle!!*

Prerequisite:

1. Knowing that you want to apply for a math PhD (or masters!) program and have been doing some small research project with a professor [i.e., like a senior thesis or an REU].
2. Having in mind which [at least 3] faculty members/professor you could get a letter of recommendation from.
3. Have a CV.

May

- Reach out to your main research professor and tell them you want to apply for graduate school - brainstorm at least one project you could write about.
- Notify your three letter writers that you would like to apply for grad school and ask if they're willing to help (telling them early gives them extra time to brainstorm what they could write about)

June

- Make a list of graduate school programs you'd like to apply for with your professor (they usually know what programs would best suit you).
- Continue to work on research project if it's not done

Late July

- Start writing a draft of your research statement and personal statement (don't shoot for perfection - the goal is to just spill words onto a page so you have something to work with)

Aug

- Have the first few drafts of your research statement and personal statement completed
- Follow up with three letter writers and make sure they are still willing to help you
- Start editing your statements with the goal of sending them to your letter writers early September

Early Sept

- Make a list of what each university's application requires and start working on anything besides the personal statement and research statement

- Send your latest draft of your personal statement and research statement, and CV to your letter writers. It is helpful to have a list of universities and their application deadline for your letter writers too.

Early Oct

- Get feedback from letter writers on your statements and make revisions

Late Oct

- Polish your statements - the goal is to be done by mid-November

Early Nov

- Keep polishing your writing - try to get new perspectives from professors you trust
- Fill out all the miscellaneous questions for each application
- Send follow-up/reminder emails to LOR writers and gentle reminders of the deadline(s).

Late Nov

- Finalize all application material
- Aim to be ready ready to submit applications by Dec 1 (gives you a few extra days to do any last minute changes)

Dec - Jan

- Submitting applications!!

After submission, try to put it behind you. You can count it as a huge success by just the genuine effort you put into your application and submitting it! Congrats, my friend!

Suggestions made by Lina Liu. Outside input is welcome!

Date: 8/8/2024

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