

Graduate School Application Timeline

Our advisors are available to help you at any point in the application process. [Book a “Graduate School Advising” appointment here.](#)

The following timeline is appropriate for most graduate programs; carefully read individual graduate school application guidelines and follow due dates accordingly. Individual programs may have due dates throughout the calendar year.

Start Early: Application deadlines may be as early as November. Evaluation and acceptance into programs may be decided as applications come in. Funding may also be allocated on a rolling basis. Give yourself ample time to finish prior to any deadlines.

Spring of application year:

- ☐ Research graduate programs based on your criteria (i.e. area of interest, faculty and mentors, facilities and resources, research or experiential opportunities, financial aid and funding, geographic location, size of program, etc.).
- ☐ Review graduate schools’ websites and application materials.
- ☐ Attend virtual or in-person information sessions with graduate schools.
- ☐ Speak with professors, alums, mentors, and other professionals about your interests.
- ☐ Determine whether you will need to take an admission test. Many schools require or recommend applicants take the [GRE](#) as part of their application. Programs may request additional or alternate tests. If an admission test is optional, discuss with our graduate school advisor whether it will be advantageous to your application to take an exam.
- ☐ Review the letter of recommendation request process and carefully select recommendation writers.
- ☐ Begin drafting your application essays (i.e. personal statement, statement of purpose, etc.).

Summer of application year:

- ☐ Study for and take the appropriate admission test, if applicable.
- ☐ Continue to research graduate schools and begin to finalize your list. Attend information sessions. Contact schools if you have questions that are not addressed on the website or in information sessions.
- ☐ Contact potential faculty advisors if appropriate for your field, degree type, and selected schools.
- ☐ Begin the process of contacting recommenders to request letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Continue to draft and revise your personal statements/statements of purpose.

Fall of application year:

- ☐ Study for and take the appropriate admission test, if applicable.

- ☐ Finalize your list of schools.
- ☐ Create logins on each school's application portal.
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation at least 6-8 weeks prior to application deadlines.
Provide letter writers with necessary materials and due dates. Follow up with recommenders to ensure completion and submission of letters.
- ☐ Finalize personal statements/statements of purpose.
- ☐ If needed, request transcripts from the Registrar well in advance.
- ☐ Complete and submit application and financial aid materials before the deadline.

Winter

- ☐ Confirm completed application files.
- ☐ Apply for external scholarships if needed.
- ☐ Prepare for interviews, if applicable.

Spring

- ☐ If waitlisted, send additional supporting materials including letters of continued interest.
- ☐ Evaluate acceptances and funding; visit schools if possible; finalize your decision.