

Junior spring

- Study/take the GRE
 - It's helpful to have a preliminary list of schools at this point because some of the schools will have score cutoffs.
 - Note: See the previously referenced documents for more advice.
 - [Magoosh GRE](#) is a pretty affordable (look out for sales!) online test prep program. However, there are some pretty good free test prep options online as well.
- Tell your Wellesley CS professors that you want to apply to CS PhD programs. They will be excited for you, and may even offer to write you a rec letter (but don't worry if they don't). They will almost certainly ask you what sort of programs you are thinking about applying to.
 - If you're not exactly sure yet, you can be broad in your answer, ie. "I'm looking at HCI programs, do you have any suggestions?"
- Start finalizing¹ plans for your thesis. If you are applying to PhD programs, the expectation is that you will also be working on your undergraduate thesis.

September

- Ask for 3 recommendation letters (see other articles [here](#) on the best ways to do this)
- You should be narrowing in on your final list of schools
- You will need to apply for thesis funding at Wellesley this fall, get this out of the way early
- Start thinking about your NSF GRFP application (which is due in late October)
 - Note: you should ask the same letter writers to also write you a letter for whatever fellowships you are applying to... but this means that you have to tell them in early September of your plans.

October

- NSF application work
- Thesis work (hopefully you finished your draft of the Daniels and Schiff in September)
- Start drafting your personal statement (and have CS profs look at early versions)
- Finalize your list of schools.

November

- WORK ON YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENTS. Know what each school requires (I made a [template](#) out of the spreadsheet I used).

¹ My thesis topic changed multiple times into the fall. Would not recommend, but don't panic if a topic doesn't solidify for you.

- Send your GRE scores to the appropriate schools.
- A lot of schools have deadlines in very early December, don't let those sneak up on you.

December

- Submit applications
- Thesis proposal

January

- Interviews

Feb & March

- Visits