

GRADUATE SCHOOL TIMELINE

Please keep in mind that this is a general timeline. Certain programs, such as medical school, have early deadlines so we encourage you to visit Career Services with questions.

Sophomore and Junior Year

- ✓ Continue research on your career interests and think more about your future goals. This can be accomplished by talking to professionals in your areas of interest about what they do and graduate programs that they recommend, reading more about these areas, talking to faculty about graduate programs in your field of interest, and visiting the Career Services office to discuss our resources.
- ✓ **Get involved** in research projects, activities, honor societies or clubs, and volunteer service.
- ✓ It is important to make some decisions about what type of graduate or professional school you are interested in early, especially for a program like medical school where the deadlines are so early. The more familiar you become with the various programs the more in control you will feel your senior year over the entire process. www.gradschools.com is an excellent resource when researching the various graduate programs.
- ✓ Begin researching schools, financial aid, scholarship, and graduate assistantship options. Keep in mind that this is a LONG process that takes a great deal of time.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to have several different options at this point, since you can always eliminate later.
- ✓ If a medical student, take the MCAT your junior year and register with the application service.

Spring and Summer Prior to Senior Year

- ✓ Request applications from all the schools on your list. Nine is a good amount, because you can apply to your top schools, the schools you are fairly confident that you can gain admission into, and a couple of schools where you know you will be accepted.
- ✓ Begin writing your personal statement, which should be customized to each school. The Career Services office has several books on this area for your use. Have faculty members and the Writing Resource Center assist you.
- ✓ Contact the Admissions Departments at your schools of interest to inquire about their acceptance rates, test score requirements, and GPA requirements. A lot of this information can be found on their website.
- ✓ Register and start preparing for your required admissions exam. This information can be found on our web site.
- ✓ Continue research about financial aid options and request aid materials from schools.

- ✓ Visiting your schools of serious interest is a good idea so you can personally meet with admissions staff, students, and faculty.
- ✓ Consider taking your examination in the summer if your schools of choice have early deadline dates. This also gives you time to take the test again if your scores are not as high as you would like.