



Tips for Applying to Graduate School

This timeline represents a common checklist that most students can follow. However, always check with the institutions and programs you are interested in for specific deadlines.

Junior Year - Fall & Spring

- Research areas of interest, institutions and programs. Also, determine if you are interested in an online or on campus programs.
- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Talk to advisors, faculty and professionals about your area of interest.
- Plan to take relevant courses no later than fall of senior year. Transcripts are typically sent then.
- Register and prepare for the appropriate graduate admissions test: GRE (graduate school), GMAT (business), LSAT (law) and MCAT (medical).
- Consider taking a practice graduate/professional school test.
- Begin researching scholarships, grants, assistantships and fellowships, and make note of relevant deadlines.
- Attend local/regional graduate and professional school fairs, if available.

GSU hosts a graduate school fair every fall. Check *Handshake* for dates.

Junior Year - Summer

- If you haven't already, register for and take graduate/professional school tests: GRE (graduate school), GMAT (business), LSAT (law), DAT (Dental), and MCAT (medical).
- Contact schools for application materials and make note of deadlines and policies.
- If possible, visit schools of interest.
- Begin working on your application essay or personal statement.
- Complete and submit application materials (Depending on application deadlines).
- Law school applicants should register for the credential assembly service (CAS) most programs use (www.lsac.org).

Senior Year - Fall

- If you haven't already, register for and take graduate/professional school tests: GRE (graduate school), GMAT (business), LSAT (law), DAT (Dental), and MCAT (medical).
- Maintain a strong GPA.
- Ask faculty members and others who are familiar with your work and strengths to write letters of recommendation.
- Continue researching graduate/professional school options, graduate assistantships and fellowships.
- Write your application essays and have them reviewed by a career counselor in University Career Services and/or a faculty member.
- Speak with advisors, faculty and alumni of the institution(s) regarding program strengths and reputation.
- Talk with alumni, networking contacts or faculty who may have attended graduate programs you are interested in attending.

Senior Year - Spring

- Send in completed applications, if not yet done.
- Apply for financial aid. Complete a FAFSA and have the information sent to the schools you applied to.
- Check with all institutions before the deadline to make sure your file is complete. Some schools may require you to send in all materials at one time.
- Consider conducting a practice interview with a career counselor in University Career Services, as many schools use interviews in their selection process.
- If possible, visit the universities that you have received an acceptance from.
- Send appropriate information to the school(s) you have selected.
- Send a deposit to your institution of choice.
- Notify other colleges and universities that accepted you of your decision, so they can admit other students on their waiting lists.
- Send thank you letters to people who wrote recommendation letters for you or helped you in the application process.