Graduate School Timeline

**First Year/Second Year**

*More than 2 years until start of grad school*

- Select a major that interests you and pursue it with academic vigor.
- Get involved with student organizations that reflect your graduate interests.
- If you are interested in Law, make an appointment in Pre-Law advising with the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.
- If you are interested in a health field (dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry, or other health career), make an appointment in Pre-Health Advising with the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.
- Pursue student employment and summer jobs that have at least a loose connection to your graduate interests or that will help you network with faculty and professionals in your field of interest.
- Consider attending academic summer sessions that will help you refine your interests.
- Participate in campus internships or research projects aligned with your graduate school interests.
- Prepare a research paper and/or presentations on topics you would study in graduate school.

**Junior Year**

*2 years until start of grad school*

- Solidify interest areas and define your goals. Research types of programs and specific programs and make list of potential school possibilities along with their application procedures and deadlines.
- If standardized testing is required, create a realistic study plan. Plan to take your test well in advance of application deadlines.
- Address deficiencies. Many graduate programs prefer applicants with research experience. Contact your department or college for research or lab opportunities.
- Research general financial aid information and location of school.
- Take practice admissions tests and a test prep class if feasible.

**Summer after Junior Year**

*A bit more than 1 year until start of grad school*

- Take required admission test in late spring or early summer.
- Meet with your Academic Advisor to review Advisement Report to confirm graduation is on track.
- Create your short list of schools to which you will apply.
- Identify faculty to request to write letters of recommendation for you.
- Some programs start accepting applications during the summer - deadlines vary by school.
- Pursue a summer internship or research aligned with your graduate school interests.

**Senior Year, Fall**

*A bit less than 1 year until start of grad school*

- Draft, rewrite and polish your personal statement.
- Work on application forms and financial aid applications. Keep a copy of all completed applications that you submit.
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty.
- Order official transcripts from every school where you have college credits.
- Follow up with schools to make sure your application file is complete.
- Programs with interviews conduct admission interviews in the fall through the spring.
- Take fall entrance exams if you want to improve your score.

**Senior Year, Spring**

*About 6 months until start of grad school*

- Evaluate your admissions offers.
- Evaluate any financial aid offers.
- Visit prospective schools, if possible.
- Inform schools of your decision; send in the deposit to your school of choice.
- Write thank-you notes to everyone who helped you.
- Complete your FAFSA to apply for financial aid.