**Graduate School Application and Process Timeline**

**Junior Year Fall (About 24 Months Prior to Graduate Program)**

* Attend graduate school preparation appointments at the ACPC and Learning Resource Center (LRC).
* Begin researching programs and national scholarships.

**Junior Year Spring (About 20 Months Prior to Graduate Program)**

* Narrow your list of programs: Create an Excel spreadsheet to organize program characteristics.
* Register and prepare for appropriate graduate admission tests. The LRC offers free prep sessions: Attend these sessions the semester before you plan to test.
* Grades and test scores are about qualifying, essays and recommendations make the difference in acceptance: Speak with faculty/advisors about recommendations. Begin drafting your application essay without considering word-counts, then edit to size with the LRC to capture the main ideas within the approved word-count.
* Prepare information for Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) if applicable.

**Junior-Senior Summer (About 15 Months Prior to Graduate Program)**

* Take required graduate admission tests early to allow time for potential re-testing.
* Be aware of application materials and confirm each program’s deadlines.
* Visit schools of interest. For dental, law, medical, optometry, or podiatry school, register with appropriate data assembly service.
* Begin your parallel plan. Start the job search process because graduate admittance is not guaranteed.

**Senior Year Fall (About 12 Months Prior to Graduate Program)**

* Obtain letters of recommendation. Give writers at least three weeks’ notice.
* Take required graduate admission tests, if not done already.
* Work your parallel plan. Prepare tailored job search materials and apply to several positions.
* Send in completed graduate school applications.

**Senior Year Spring (About 6 Months Prior to Graduate Program)**

* Complete the FAFSA for financial aid prior to the filing deadline.
* Check with all institutions well before the application deadline to make sure that your file is complete.
* Visit institutions that accept you, accept one offer, and send a deposit if required.
* Decline unwanted offers as soon as possible so others can be offered admission.
* Send thank you notes to all references and others who have assisted you.