

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.