

# Graduate School Timeline

## NAVIGATE EACH STEP OF GRAD SCHOOL WITH OUR COMPREHENSIVE GRAD SCHOOL GUIDE

*(Application requirements/deadlines vary by school)*

### Freshman & Sophomore Years

- Take core courses & enroll in courses helpful for grad school
- Explore career choices
- Brainstorm and define your career goals
- Meet with a career counselor & academic advisor
- Explore volunteer opportunities
- Find an academic mentor
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals
- Join student clubs/organizations; become an active member
- Attend departmental colloquial & social gatherings
- Get to know your professors

### Junior Year

- Take more advance courses
- Engage in experiential learning opportunities (internship, practicum, volunteer, work)
- Research topics of interest for research projects/thesis
- Continue developing professional relationships with supervisors, mentors, professors, employers
- Join career-specific professional organizations/associations
- Join in FPU's Career Achievement Program (CAP)
- Prepare a professional portfolio: Cover Letter, Resume/CV, compile projects/work samples, LinkedIn
- Attend state/regional conventions in your field
- Meet with a career counselor to discuss grad school plans
- Research grad programs that meet your career goals
- Research grad schools that offer the degree program to help achieve your next career goal

### Summer Before Senior Year | June-July

- Have a defined career goal:
  - Education level required to achieve your career goal
  - Type of degree (Masters, Doctoral, Credential/License)
- Narrow down your grad school list (5-10): Do grad schools offer the program to advance your career?
- Request info, application & admission requirements
- Make list of the admission requirements & due dates
- Prepare for exams: GRE/LSAT/MCAT/GMAT/MAT/DAT/PCAT:
  - Study for the require exam
  - Review registration & exam dates
  - Take this summer (retake in fall if necessary)

### Senior Year | August-September

- Continue requesting admission requirements from programs
- Thoroughly review program info (explore financial assistance)
- Consult with your mentor, career counselor, academic advisor, faculty regarding the various programs of interest
- Take exams: GRE/LSAT/MCAT/GMAT/MAT/DAT/PCAT
- Update your professional portfolio; Cover Letter, Resume/CV, Compile projects/work samples, LinkedIn

### Senior Year | October-November

- Take/retake exams: GRE/LSAT/MCAT/GMAT/MAT/DAT/PCAT
- Request letters of recommendation
- Request transcripts:
  - Inspect your transcripts for any errors
  - Registrar to send official transcripts to schools
- Prepare your essays:
  - Personal statement or statement of purpose
  - Supplemental questions
- Complete the FAFSA
- Research financial assistance (How/when to apply):
  - Scholarships, fellowships
  - Teacher & research assistance
  - Loans

### Senior Year | December

- Gather letters of recommendation
- Finalize your essays:
  - Personal statement or statement of purpose
  - Supplemental questions
- Complete & submit applications:
  - Make list of each school's required documents
  - Make photocopies of all documents
  - By Mail: enclose *all* required documents, including application fee (or fee waiver)
  - Online: upload *all* required documents; pay the application fee (or fee waiver)
  - Verify receipt of your application & documents

### Senior Year | January-March

- Wait patiently, review your email & mail periodically; check your application status online (if this is a possible option)
- Keep recommenders updated on your application status
- Stay in contact with faculty; share if you will be absent
- Prepare for an admission interview:
  - Practice your interviewing skills (StandOut)
  - Practice answering interview questions with STAR Stories
  - Watch our Ace the Interview Video

### Senior Year | April-May

- Start receiving admission offers: Not your top choice? Contact the admission representative of your top choice schools to check on your application status
- Evaluate your admission offers:
  - What characteristics of the program are important to you?
  - Will this program prepare you for your next career goal?
  - What financial assistance is offered?
- Decline less preferred/accept preferred admission offers
- Keep exploring financial assistance & meet a financial adviser
- Follow up with final official transcripts