



# TIMELINE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

## FRESHMAN YEAR

- Explore your interests
- Routinely meet with advisors to create an action plan to pursue your personal interests
- Express an interest to attend graduate school to a professor in your field of interest
- Establish relationships with your professors
- Establish and maintain at least a 3.0/4.0 GPA
- Determine at least one organization on campus that you would like to join
- Create a resume or curriculum vitae

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Outline and establish your personal and professional goals
- Identify and connect with individuals in your chosen career track
- Seek prospective mentoring relationships
- Attend graduate and professional school fairs to obtain information and learn about resources
- Visit your Career Center
- Enhance your resume with research experiences and internships in your field of interest

## JUNIOR YEAR

- Attend more graduate and professional school fairs and identify graduate programs that interest you
- Continue to discuss interests and options with professors and current graduate students
- Familiarize yourself with the research interests of faculty in the graduate programs of interest to you
- Find a summer research project or internship to gain experience
- ***Attend Preparing for Graduate School Workshop at UGA***

## SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR & SENIOR YEAR

- Determine required examination test(s) (GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MAT, PCAT, etc.) and take a practice test early summer (discuss with students who have already taken the test to determine best strategies for studying)
- Generate a list of your top 5-10 graduate schools (remember when you go for certain master and doctoral degrees depending on your program you will need to identify 1-2 professors that you will want to work with specifically)
- Create a system to organize materials and deadlines for graduate school and funding applications
- Begin drafting statement of purpose
- Reconnect with potential recommenders to discuss your intentions to apply to graduate school and ask for their agreement to write a letter of support. This may take some time due to summer schedules (be ready to provide specific areas that you want the recommender to highlight)
- Take the entrance test(s) you need to take. If you're not happy with your scores, reschedule the test(s)



# TIMELINE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

## SENIOR YEAR

- Check the universities you are interested in to see if they offer any special programming that you need to apply for or be nominated
- Create a professional email address you will use to apply to graduate schools
- Find out what schools offer application fee waivers and if you qualify
- Finalize your list of prospective schools and familiarize yourself with the professors who share your research interests at each school
- Keep polishing your statement of purpose – have friends and family read over this and help make edits
- Send your recommenders supplemental materials (like your resume, personal statement etc.) that they can use as a reference
- Make contact with students and professors at your prospective schools (i.e., for clarifying questions about the program that were not listed on the website)
- Complete the application (i.e. letters of recommendation, transcripts, statement of purpose, application fee, resume/vitae, send test scores directly to schools)
- Verify your letters of recommendation have been sent
- Apply early! Research the deadlines for both applications and funding as they vary for each college, school, and program. If you want to be considered for funding, **APPLY EARLY!**
- Follow-up with academic departments and graduate schools to ensure your application is complete (Typically you should wait one week before follow-up to allow enough time for the application to get through the school's system)
- Continue to seek out funding (assistantships, fellowships, scholarships) opportunities

## DECISION PERIOD

- It is a good idea to outline your contingency plan in case you are not accepted by your target graduate schools
- Compare offers you receive and understand that different aspects will fall into making your decision (i.e., cost, rankings, research, duration, location, personal preferences)
- Notify all admissions offices of your decision
- Send thank you notes to those who wrote you letters of recommendation and anyone who assisted you along the process

**Go DAWGS!**

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