

Graduate School Application Timeline

So you have decided to go to graduate school. Now what? The following is an application timetable. Keep in mind that you may not be able to adhere to this timetable if your application deadlines are very early. If deadlines are impossible to meet, contact the institution to see if a late application will be considered.

Third Year: Fall and Spring

- Research areas of interest, institutions, and programs
- Talk to advisers about application requirements
- Register and prepare for graduate admission tests
- Request a student copy of your transcript and check for errors
- Investigate national scholarships and their deadlines
- Generate preliminary list for letters of recommendation

Third Year: Summer

- Take required admission tests
- Fill out application materials
- Visit institutions you are most interested in, if possible
- Write your application essay and have it edited
- Check on application deadlines and rolling admissions policies
- For medical, dental, osteopathy, podiatry, or law school, you may need to register for the appropriate national application or data assembly service
- Save money for application fees

Fourth Year: Fall

- Obtain letters of recommendation
- Send in completed applications
- Keep a copy of all materials for yourself

Fourth Year: Spring

- Check with all institutions to make sure your application is complete
- Call well before the deadline, in case you are required to send another copy of a document
- Visit institutions that accept you, and continue your research
- Send a deposit to your institution of choice
- Notify other colleges and universities that accepted you of your decision so they may admit students on their waiting list
- Send thank-you notes to people who wrote your recommendation letters, informing them of your success