

# General Graduate School Timeline

**This suggested timeline is for students planning to attend graduate school immediately after earning a bachelor's degree and can be easily adapted for those planning a gap-year.**

## **FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEAR**

- Do well in your coursework
- Meet with academic advisors to plan your coursework and help you consider graduate programs
- Develop relationships with faculty
- Get involved in campus and gain experience

## **SUMMER BETWEEN SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEAR**

- Apply for and participate in research and internship opportunities (many application deadlines are in the winter or spring before the summer)

## **JUNIOR YEAR (OR ONE YEAR BEFORE APPLICATION SEASON)**

- Research graduate programs and fellowships that are relevant for your plans
- If possible, attend conferences in your discipline, some include information sessions or grad school fairs
- If needed, prepare for and take the GRE general and subject exams
- Look into internships and/or research in your relevant fields

## **SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR**

- Apply for and participate in research and internship opportunities (many application deadlines are in the winter or spring before the summer)
- Research graduate programs and fellowships that are relevant for your plans

## **SENIOR YEAR (OR IN FINAL YEAR DURING APPLICATION SEASON)**

- Participate in research or gain experience and attend conferences in your discipline

### **August/September**

- Actively seek and apply for application fee waivers
- Contact faculty members for advice and ask if they are willing to write a strong recommendation letter
- Gather information about required application materials and deadlines
- Work on personal and research statements
- If your discipline requires you to reach out to prospective faculty for your graduate program, start reaching out to them

### **October/November/December (depending on the application deadlines)**

- Complete and submit application materials
- Ask your letter writers to submit their recommendation letters, providing information and deadlines
- Order transcripts (if official transcripts are required)
- If needed, confirm that all of your application materials were received

### **January/February/March**

- If appropriate, look into visiting institutions on your own
- Some programs typically include interviews or recruitment trips for admitted students
- Admissions offers with financial aid packages are often provided around this time
- If you have been admitted into multiple programs, reach out to others to help you make your decision and review the other section of this document with further suggestions on making your decision

### **April 15**

- Most universities participate in the CGS (Council of Graduate Schools) **resolution** which allows admitted students to have time to decide and respond by April 15
- After you have made your final decision, thank all of your friends and colleagues for their assistance and inform them of your final decision
- If you declined admission from some institutions, remember to still thank them for their offers because you'll likely encounter the faculty and scholars again