

Graduate School Timeline

Applying for graduate school can be more flexible than undergrad. The majority of graduate schools having rolling admissions, that is applications are evaluated as they arrive rather than all at once after the final deadline. Graduate programs also generally allow students to begin instruction during fall or winter semester. However, it is recommended to start in fall if your program is cohort oriented. Similar to undergrad, every graduate school application will vary in terms of requirements and deadlines. Below is a timeline of suggestions when applying to graduate school for fall semester/quarter.

May

- Almost every post undergraduate degree will have some kind of standardized test such as the GRE, GMAT, or LSAT. During this time take the appropriate practice standardized test. This will help you determine how much prep you will need to take the real test.
- Research graduate schools. Pay attention to the average GRE scores of admitted students to give yourself a goal range.

June

- Start studying for appropriate standardized test. Enroll in a prep course if necessary. Prep courses recommend taking the test within 3 weeks of finishing the course.
- Sign up for appropriate standardized test if necessary.

July

- Continue researching graduate schools. Meet with professionals in the field you are interested in. Go to schools and meet with admissions office, attend graduate school fairs and open events. The more points of contact, the better.

August

- Take appropriate standardized test. If you are not happy with your scores, take the test again.



September

- Finalize your list of prospective schools and start working on your application.
- Update and polish your resume.
- Begin writing your personal statements and other required essays.
- Request letters of recommendation from academic sources. Include professional recommenders if you have spent time in the workforce since graduating from undergrad.

October

- Fill out your FAFSA as early as Oct 1.
- Request official transcripts from the school you went to for undergrad.
- Arrange campus visits to prospective schools if possible.

November

- Have your essays edited and polished by trusted friends and professionals in the field you are applying to.
- Make sure you have all the required application materials such as resume, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and so on.

December

- Submit your applicant.
- Double check that your letters of recommendation have been submitted.
- Do not forget to send schools your test scores if they require them.

March-June

- You will begin hearing back from graduate schools regarding whether you have been accepted or not and it is time to decide which school to attend. Be sure to take your financial aid award letters into consideration when making a decision.

