

## GRADUATE SCHOOL: Timeline for Application

Month	Action	Completed Date
May	Research Schools; gather information and begin narrowing your choices.	
May	Take a practice GRE.	
	Taking practice exams allows you to become familiar and more comfortable with the content, instructions, and format of graduate examinations, increasing the likelihood that you will perform up to your ability on the actual examination.	
	The Center for Career & Life Planning offers practice examinations once each semester	
June	Take a GRE preparation course.	
June	Register for the GRE general test, if necessary.	
July	Request information from schools of interest.	
July	Talk with professors to get recommendations for good programs and possible networking contacts.	
August	Update your resume.	
August	Take the GRE general test; if you are not happy with your scores, take it again.	
August	Consider which faculty members to ask for letters of recommendation.	
August	Examine each school's application and note a) due dates for each application, and b) specific questions or essay topics that require your attention.	
September	Construct the first draft of your personal statement.	
September	Finalize your list of prospective schools.	
September	From each institution you are considering, choose a professor whose research interest mirrors your own and familiarize yourself with his/her work.	
September	Register for the November GRE subject test, if necessary.	
September	Have your resume and personal statement reviewed by a career services professional or an appropriate faculty member.	
September	Research sources for financial aid.	
	Graduate programs sometimes pay for tuition, fees, professional memberships, and travel to professional conferences/meetings. What is and is not covered by the graduate institution?	
	Consider fellowships, assistantships, tuition remission, health insurance, loans, and external fellowships.	
October	Request official transcripts.	
October	Put finishing touches on your resume and personal statement. Make sure to spell check everything!	
October	Request letters of recommendation, providing transcript, each program's recommendation form, and your personal statement to make your recommender's job easier.	
November	Take the GRE subject test and make sure your scores will be sent directly to the schools.	
November	Apply for financial aid: complete the FAFSA online (gather your tax forms before you begin), and research fellowships as well as private loans and grants.	
*DECEMBER	Complete and submit all applications, keeping 2 copies of every section for your records.	
*DECEMBER	Verify that your recommendations have been sent.	
*DECEMBER	Look for postcards confirming that schools have received your application. If you do not hear from a school, contact them before the deadline to verify that they have received your application materials.	
January Through March	Start preparing for admissions interviews (where applicable). Determine what questions you want to ask and prepare your answers to commonly asked questions. Use InterviewStream and contact the Center for Career & Life Planning to request a mock interview.	
April	Appeal the aid package (or apply for alternative funding) if the amount the school offers you does not meet your needs.	
April	Visit schools to which you have been accepted.	