

TIMELINE FOR DECISION MAKING

SOPHOMORE-JUNIOR YEAR	SOPHOMORE-JUNIOR YEAR	JUNIOR-SENIOR YEAR
<p style="text-align: center;">24-36 months before application deadline</p> <p>Take courses in the areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore or verify your interests by taking coursework in the areas you hope to study • Add to your knowledge of the field and challenge yourself to articulate your interest areas in light of new information gained through the coursework 	<p style="text-align: center;">12-24 months before application deadline</p> <p>Define your career goals and which graduate programs will help you reach those goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use assessments such as FOCUS2 to narrow down your career interests and potential specializations within your field of interest • Know which graduate exam is required for entry into your target program. Make sure you prepare for and take the appropriate graduate school exam <p>Participate in research projects related to your program of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use research projects as an opportunity to get to know faculty members, learn even more about your area of interest, and develop useful career contacts <p>Participate in Internships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about the subject, focusing in on your specific interest area • Develop contacts in the field of study or in the associated career field 	<p style="text-align: center;">6-18 months before application deadline</p> <p>Research schools and relevant graduate programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Petersons.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choose “Grad Programs & Degrees” from the top menu ○ Select “Find the Master Degree Program That’s Right for You” ○ Under the search field, select “Advanced Search” to locate graduate programs by subject area, program, degree level, and geographic area