

Sample Timeline

Applying to Graduate or Professional School

(Adapted from the Peterson's Guide to Graduate Programs, 1996)

Six months prior to applying

- Research areas of interest, institutions, and programs
- Talk with advisors about application requirements
- Register and prepare for graduate admissions exams
- Gather information about scholarships
- Obtain letters of recommendation (provide references with a copy of your resume and let them know which schools you have applied to)

Three months prior to applying

- Take required admissions exam(s)
- Request application materials
- Visit institutions of interest
- Write essays and personal statements
- Confirm application deadlines and admissions policies
- For medical, dental, osteopathy, podiatry, or law school, applicants may need to register with national registry services used by many schools (i.e. LSDAS)

Fall, one year prior to matriculation

- Obtain letters of recommendation
- Take graduate admissions exams
- Send completed applications
- Obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Aid Profile, if necessary

Spring, before matriculating in Fall

- Confirm with institutions that file is complete
- Visit institutions that offer admission
- Send deposit to institution of choice
- Notify other institutions of your decision to attend school elsewhere so they can accept students on their waiting lists
- Send follow-up letters to people who wrote recommendation letters to inform them of your plans and express thanks