

Planning Timeline for Graduate School

Freshman and Sophomore Year

- ✓ Focus on your studies- your GPA is very important
- ✓ Be active in career exploration activities such as volunteering, internships, and job shadowing
- ✓ Join and be active in student organizations and clubs
- ✓ Get to know faculty
- ✓ Explore graduate school websites
- ✓ Attend Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)

Junior Year: Fall Semester

- ✓ Attend Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)
- ✓ Explore graduate programs that support your career goals
- ✓ Talk with faculty in your area of interest about your plans and get their advice on graduate school programs
- ✓ Research schools about required application materials and process
- ✓ Determine what entrance exam, if any, you need to take and contact The Learning Center @ Rod Library for resources
- ✓ Ask your professors about available research opportunities

Junior Year: Spring Semester

- ✓ Identify 3 potential writers for letters of recommendation
- ✓ Determine if you will need to submit a writing sample; if so, determine which piece you will use and begin editing
- ✓ Develop budget for application fees, transcript fees, standardized exams, and other expenses
- ✓ Create a list of potential programs to apply to

- ✓ Visit potential schools and meet with faculty, if possible

Senior Year: Fall Semester

- ✓ Complete the FAFSA which is available October 1st to apply for financial aid
- ✓ Attend Thinking About Graduate School (TAGS)
- ✓ Take entrance exam if required and not yet completed
- ✓ Share academic writing sample with faculty, peers, and The Learning Center @ Rod Library for review
- ✓ Finalize your personal statement and customize it for each application
- ✓ Apply to 3-8 schools
- ✓ Contact your references at least one month before due date and provide copies of your resume, personal statement, unofficial transcripts, information about the programs you're applying to, and deadlines. Follow up with a thank you message!
- ✓ Submit your application materials prior to the deadline and keep copies of all materials for your records

Senior Year: Spring Semester

- ✓ Prepare for graduate program interviews
- ✓ Consider offers of admission, including financial aid packages
- ✓ Make your decision! Notify the school to accept their offer of admission and make your deposit to reserve your place, if necessary
- ✓ Decline other offers of admission by email
- ✓ Follow up with your references regarding future plans