

Graduate School Application Timeline

During the graduate school application process, it is important to stay organized and create a schedule of required steps and deadlines for each institution.

Start early and apply early:

- **Typical Deadlines:**
 - PhD program: December or January
 - Master's program: January-March
- **Rolling admissions:** Applications are reviewed as they arrive.
 - Submitting your application early will increase your potential to be admitted.
 - Fall admissions decisions typically made 1 month from applying.
- **Non-rolling admissions:** Applications are reviewed all at once.
 - Fall decisions made between January and May of the following year.

A general timeline follows. Note deadlines specific to each school you are applying, and adapt your schedule accordingly:

May:

- Research potential schools.
- Note if an entrance exam is required (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, DAT, OAT, or PCAT)
- Take a practice entrance exam

June:

- Determine if entrance exam score needs improvement.
- Borrow test prep book from Career Services.
- Sign up for Kaplan Test Prep or Princeton Review test prep courses.
- Register for entrance exam.

July:

- Speak with UG professors regarding programs they recommend.
- Request information from schools of interest.

August:

- Take the entrance exam.
- If your scores need improvement, register to take it again.
- Begin developing your personal statement.

September:

- If required, register for entrance exam.
- Determine final list of schools.
- Select 2 professors from each school whose research matches your interests. Become familiar with their work.
- Contact your recommenders. Continue revising statement of purpose.

October:

- Request official transcripts from UG Registrar.
- Provide your resume, personal statement, and program information to your recommenders.
- Contact professors and students at prospective schools.
- Arrange a campus visit.

November:

- Ask 3 contacts (professor, honest friend, Career Services) for feedback on your personal statement.
- Take the entrance exam and request scores be sent directly to schools.
- Compose resume/CV and schedule review appointment with Career Services.

December:

- Complete and submit all applications.
- Keep copies of every section for your records.
- Confirm that your recommendations have been sent.

January:

- Submit FAFSA and apply for private loans, grants and fellowships.
- Prepare for admissions interviews by practicing interview skills with Career Services.

April:

- Submit commitment form to the institution you have chosen.
- Send thank you letters to the people who helped during the process.

Note: Most graduate school applicants receive at least one rejection. If this happens and you desire to re-apply the following year, we advise contacting professors in program. Respectfully express your regret at not being admitted, inquire about where your application was weak, and ask for advice on ways to strengthen your submission in the future.

Adapted from The Princeton Review