

Graduate School Application Timeline

Summer

- Talk to faculty, especially potential recommenders, about your plans; get their advice
- Draw up tentative list of programs to apply to; note deadlines!
- Schedule standardized tests; prepare; take when ready
- Begin writing Statement of Purpose

Fall

- Have Statement of Purpose critiqued, preferably by faculty advisors
- Contact faculty of programs to which you are applying
- Take standardized tests when ready
- Apply for scholarships with early deadlines (e.g., Javits, NSF, Mellon)
- Request letters of recommendation (at least one month before deadline). Give your recommenders a copy of your essay and other application materials.
- Have transcripts and letters of recommendation forwarded to programs. (If possible, arrange with Student Records to send a transcript that includes your senior fall grades.)
- Submit completed applications (by mail and/or online)
- Complete financial aid forms and apply for relevant scholarships. (Note: These deadlines might be a lot earlier than regular admissions deadlines.)

Spring

- Visit top choices, if possible. Ask current graduate students in these departments what it's *really* like.
- Compare financial aid offers, consider bargaining
- If you're applying for need-based financial aid, you may need to file a copy of your federal income tax return