

Graduate School Application Timeline

May – July:

- Research graduate schools and specific programs
 - Get professors advice about schools in your field of interest
 - Research schools through websites, admissions counselors, students and alumni
- Start looking for fellowships and scholarships
 - Application deadlines may be due before your grad school applications

August – September:

- Schedule to take any required standardized tests (i.e. GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.)
 - Take by the end of October
 - Schedule the test about 1 month in advance
 - Check for specific test requirements (i.e. writing section, subject tests)
- Finalize list of schools – make a plan
 - Identify what each school requires for the application
 - Make a timeline of when you will complete each part of the application
 - Applications usually become available in mid-September (15th)

October:

- Take the required standardized test (if not done already)
- Ask for letters of recommendation (LOR)
 - Let your recommenders know what they need to do and by when
 - Check to see if schools have specific LOR paperwork
 - You can ask them to send your letters to Interfolio.com, an online service which can store and deliver your letters to any school electronically or by mail for a fee
- Start applications
 - At least fill out the basic info to get you started

November:

- Write Personal Statement and other essays
 - Address why you want to apply to grad school, your reasons for choosing a particular program, research interests, past experience, and career goals
 - Usually 1-2 pages
 - Some prompts are very specific, others are very open-ended
- Complete all fellowship and scholarship applications

December:

- Complete applications
 - Usually due Dec. 1 – Jan. 15. (most are due Dec. 15)
- Order official transcripts from Registrar and Records at the M Center or online through the Mills Portal
- Get recommendations
 - Graciously remind your recommenders if you have not received your letters yet and be sure to write thank you notes to all the people who have helped you

February – April:

- Hear back from grad schools (usually in March)
- Visit grad schools
- Make your final decision