



## APPLYING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL 101

### 6-12+ Months Before Applying (*1<sup>st</sup> semester of your junior undergrad*)

1. <b>Research Institutions and Programs</b> Some questions to ask: Is this program accredited? What are the alumni outcomes? What is the student-faculty ratio and involvement? It is helpful to create a tracking spreadsheet of your program interests.
2. <b>Continue Relevant Research/Internship Hours</b>
3. <b>Visit the Institution</b> Attend information sessions and visit campuses
4. <b>Talk to Faculty About the Application Process</b> Some questions to ask: What are application requirements and deadlines? What financial aid, grants, and scholarships are available?
5. <b>Register and Study for Appropriate Tests</b> e.g. GRE, LSAT, GMAT, MCAT, TOEFL, IELTS
6. <b>Investigate Scholarships and Fellowships</b>

### 3-6 Months Before Applying (*Last semester of junior undergrad to 1<sup>st</sup> semester of senior undergrad*)

1. <b>Take required admission tests</b>
2. <b>Write statement of purpose</b>
3. <b>Request letters of recommendation</b>
4. <b>START APPLYING:</b> confirm application deadlines and pay application fees
5. <b>Register for application data services</b> (if applicable)
6. <b>Remember to meet federal (FAFSA) and program deadlines</b>

### Semester Prior to Starting (*Last semester of senior undergrad*)

1. <b>Confirm that your file is complete</b> Were transcripts, test scores, statement of purpose/personal statement, letters of recommendation received?
2. <b>Visit institutions that accept you</b>
3. <b>Make a decision and send a deposit to your institution of choice</b>
4. <b>Notify institutions you decline to attend</b>
5. <b>Thank those who recommended and assisted you</b>



## ADDITIONAL TIPS AND RESOURCES

### Useful Testing Resources

	<b>ScoreItNow!</b> is an online service for practicing the Analytical Writing section on GRE
	<b>www.gre.org</b> contains sample test material
	<b>Princeton Review:</b> www.princetonreview.com
	<b>PowerScore:</b> www.powerscore.com/
	<b>Kaplan:</b> www.kaptest.com
	<b>Mometrix:</b> http://www.mometrix.com/academy/
	<b>Khan Academy:</b> https://www.khanacademy.org/

### Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose

	A statement of your goals and ideas
	Clear, concise, with purpose and enthusiasm
	What is the reader looking for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No errors</li> <li>• Do not write "I've always wanted to be a _____."</li> <li>• Answer the question(s), and follow the instructions</li> <li>• Dedication to the industry and be yourself</li> <li>• Tell what _____ means to you</li> </ul>

### Letters of Recommendation

	How many letters? From whom?
	Ask people who know you well and can speak highly of you and your specific qualifications
	Faculty, supervisors, volunteer coordinators – depending on your program
	Give your references time to write (may request your resume or personal statement)

### How Do I Pay for School?

	<b>Fill out your FAFSA!</b> Some schools have grants like the State University Grant
	<b>Scholarships/Fellowships:</b> national, state & institutional
	<b>Assistantships:</b> teaching, research, service
	<b>Loans:</b> Federally funded and privately funded
	<b>Employer benefits:</b> such as tuition reimbursement or fee waivers