# Applying for Graduate School 101

## 6-12+ Months Before Applying (1st semester of your junior undergrad)

1. **Research Institutions and Programs**
   - 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. **Continue Relevant Research/Internship Hours**

3. **Visit the Institution**
   - Attend information sessions and visit campuses

4. **Talk to Faculty About the Application Process**
   - Some questions to ask: What are application requirements and deadlines? What financial aid, grants, and scholarships are available?

5. **Register and Study for Appropriate Tests**
   - e.g. GRE, LSAT, GMAT, MCAT, TOEFL, IELTS

6. **Investigate Scholarships and Fellowships**

## 3-6 Months Before Applying (Last semester of junior undergrad to 1st semester of senior undergrad)

1. **Take required admission tests**

2. **Write statement of purpose**

3. **Request letters of recommendation**

4. **START APPLYING**: confirm application deadlines and pay application fees

5. **Register for application data services** (if applicable)

6. **Remember to meet federal (FAFSA) and program deadlines**

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

1. **Confirm that your file is complete**
   - Were transcripts, test scores, statement of purpose/personal statement, letters of recommendation received?

2. **Visit institutions that accept you**

3. **Make a decision and send a deposit to your institution of choice**

4. **Notify institutions you decline to attend**

5. **Thank those who recommended and assisted you**
## ADDITIONAL TIPS AND RESOURCES

### Useful Testing Resources

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

- No errors
- Do not write “I’ve always wanted to be a _____.”
- Answer the question(s), and follow the instructions
- Dedication to the industry and be yourself
- Tell what ________ means to you

### 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?

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