Graduate School Timeline

Do your research!

What fields of study and colleges support your career goals?
Where can you get the degree you want?
Are there professors working in my area of interest?
What is the reputation in my field of interest?
Talk to professors in your area of interest about career goals and program availability.
Talk to professionals in your field of interest about salary and job challenges.
Talk to Graduate Advisors and Career Counselors

Before you apply...

Be sure that you really want to do it!
Take the GRE
Know your professional goals/plans
Review application processes for the schools and identify school and departmental deadlines.
Budget for application fees

2-14 months before:

Write draft of introduction statement
Develop Resume or CV
Make connections with faculty and researchers at each potential school
Research financial assistance available
Take the GRE
Think about potential people to write letters of recommendation

10-11 months before:

Attend graduate school lectures and fairs
Finalize list of schools for application
Finalize introduction statement
Retake the GRE if necessary
Begin application forms
Ask recommenders to write letters of recommendation, send “thank you” letters afterward
8-9 months before:

- Request GRE test scores to be sent to your list of schools
- Submit requests for official transcripts
- Follow up with recommenders to make sure letters have been sent
- Complete application forms

7-8 months before:

- Mail completed applications (Late December/Early January) even if deadlines are later.
- Apply for/express interest in financial support and graduate assistantships
- Budget for travel expenses to universities

4-6 months before:

- Hopefully...begin to receive acceptance letters from colleges
- Follow up on financial assistance
- Attend any required interviews
- Visit colleges that accept you but don’t require interviews (Ask for money for travel)

3-4 months before:

- Hopefully...receive offers of financial support and grad assistantships
- Make final decision on which program to attend
- Get information on orientations, how to register, etc.
- Make plans for relocation if necessary

**GRE test information:** http://www.prometric.com/GRE/default.htm

**GRE practice exams:** http://www.greguide.com/gre-practice-tests.html

For More Information stop by the Career Resource Center in the John Burwell Building