**Timeline for Graduate School Preparation**

### Freshman Year
- Explore your interests
- Routinely meet with advisors to create an action plan to pursue your personal interests
- Express an interest to attend graduate school to a professor in your field of interest
- Establish relationships with your professors
- Establish and maintain at least a 3.0/4.0 GPA
- Determine at least one organization on campus that you would like to join
- Create a resume or curriculum vitae

### Sophomore Year
- Outline and establish your personal and professional goals
- Identify and connect with individuals in your chosen career track
- Seek prospective mentoring relationships
- Attend graduate and professional school fairs to obtain information and learn about resources
- Visit your Career Center
- Enhance your resume with research experiences and internships in your field of interest

### Junior Year
- Attend more graduate and professional school fairs and identify graduate programs that interest you
- Continue to discuss interests and options with professors and current graduate students
- Familiarize yourself with the research interests of faculty in the graduate programs of interest to you
- Find a summer research project or internship to gain experience
- **Attend Preparing for Graduate School Workshop at UGA**

### Summer Between Junior & Senior Year
- Determine required examination test(s) (GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MAT, PCAT, etc.) and take a practice test early summer (discuss with students who have already taken the test to determine best strategies for studying)
- Generate a list of your top 5–10 graduate schools (remember when you go for certain master and doctoral degrees depending on your program you will need to identify 1–2 professors that you will want to work with specifically)
- Create a system to organize materials and deadlines for graduate school and funding applications
- Begin drafting statement of purpose
- Reconnect with potential recommenders to discuss your intentions to apply to graduate school and ask for their agreement to write a letter of support. This may take some time due to summer schedules (be ready to provide specific areas that you want the recommender to highlight)
- Take the entrance test(s) you need to take. If you’re not happy with your scores, reschedule the test(s)

### Senior Year
**Senior Year**

- Check the universities you are interested in to see if they offer any special programming that you need to apply for or be nominated
- Create a professional email address you will use to apply to graduate schools
- Find out what schools offer application fee waivers and if you qualify
- Finalize your list of prospective schools and familiarize yourself with the professors who share your research interests at each school
- Keep polishing your statement of purpose — have friends and family read over this and help make edits
- Send your recommenders supplemental materials (like your resume, personal statement etc.) that they can use as a reference
- Make contact with students and professors at your prospective schools (i.e., for clarifying questions about the program that were not listed on the website)
- Complete the application (i.e. letters of recommendation, transcripts, statement of purpose, application fee, resume/vitae, send test scores directly to schools)
- Verify your letters of recommendation have been sent
- Apply early! Research the deadlines for both applications and funding as they vary for each college, school, and program. If you want to be considered for funding, **APPLY EARLY!**
- Follow-up with academic departments and graduate schools to ensure your application is complete (Typically you should wait one week before follow-up to allow enough time for the application to get through the school's system)
- Continue to seek out funding (assistantships, fellowships, scholarships) opportunities

**Decision Period**

- It is a good idea to outline your contingency plan in case you are not accepted by your target graduate schools
- Compare offers you receive and understand that different aspects will fall into making your decision (i.e., cost, rankings, research, duration, location, personal preferences)
- Notify all admissions offices of your decision
- Send thank you notes to those who wrote you letters of recommendation and anyone who assisted you along the process

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**Go Dawgs!**

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