

GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE/CHECKLIST

Phase 1 (typically beginning of senior year)

- Research areas of interest, institutions, locations, and programs. *Be clear about why you are pursuing an advanced degree and have clarified career interests. Talk to faculty for recommendations and use resources like: Petersons.com (for test prep), gradtrek.com, graduateguide.com, gradcu.com, Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR), <https://students-residents.aamc.org/medical-school-admission-requirements/medical-school-admission-requirements-msar-applicants>, the Thomason Library, and the Boston College Law School Locator: <https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/careers/pdf/Law%20School/2016%20Law%20Locator%20Final.pdf>.*
- Create a list of schools you want to apply to. *Target 5-7 programs ideally and more for law and medical school (12-15).*
- Talk to admissions representatives about *application requirements and deadlines*.
- Register and prepare for admissions tests.
- Update *resume and LinkedIn profile*. Ask for *letters of recommendation* from faculty and others.
- Investigate national scholarships, grants, and assistantships.

Phase 2

- Check on application requirements, *deadlines* and rolling admissions policies and create an organizational system to track your application progress.
- Take required admission tests.
- Write your application essay or personal statement. *This typically require a minimum of three drafts so plan early and ask your faculty advisor and Career & Professional Development staff to review. (See back for writing tips).*
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), if applicable.
- Submit applications before the deadline.

Phase 3

- Visit institutions that accept you.
- Ask about assistantships (if you haven't already)
- *Prepare for interviews* – practice with Career & Professional Development.
- Send a deposit to your institution of choice.
- Notify other colleges of your decision.
- Send *thank-you notes* to people who wrote your recommendation letters and to all interviewers.