GRADUATE SCHOOL PLANNING TIMETABLE

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ☐ Talk to your advisor and make appropriate curricular decisions, especially if your career goals will require graduate education. If you are uncertain about career options, make an appointment with a Career Coach in Career Development.

JUNIOR YEAR

Fall & Spring

- ☐ Research areas of interest, institutions, programs, and specializations.
- ☐ Talk to your academic advisor or an interested faculty member about application requirements.
- ☐ Research and prepare for appropriate graduate admission tests. Obtain information about graduate admission test applications and scheduling. Often this can be completed online.
- ☐ If appropriate, obtain letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Seek opportunities to tutor, do research, or intern in the area of study you plan to pursue.
- ☐ Investigate national scholarships and/or fellowships.

Summer

- ☐ Take required graduate admission tests.
- ☐ Request application materials.
- ☐ Prepare for possible admission interviews.
- ☐ Visit institutions of interest, if possible. Talk to faculty and students in the program you plan to enter.
- ☐ Write your application essay. Ask your advisor or a faculty member to review what you've written.
- ☐ Check on application deadlines and rolling admission policies.

SENIOR YEAR

Fall

- Obtain letters of recommendation.
- Take or retake graduate admission tests if you have not already done so.
- Send in completed applications.

Spring

- Register for Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service, if appropriate.
- Check with each institution before the deadline to make sure your file is complete.
- Visit institutions that accept you.
- Send a deposit to your institution of choice, if necessary.
- Notify other colleges and universities that accepted you of your decision so that they may admit students on their waiting list.

- Send thank you notes to those who wrote your letters of recommendation.

STANDARDIZED TESTING WEBSITES

GRE (Graduate Record Examination)	www.ets.org/gre
LSAT (Law School Admission Test)	http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat
MAT (Miller Analogies Test)	www.milleranalogies.com
MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)	www.aamc.org/mcat
GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)	http://www.mba.com/
DAT (Dental Admission Test)	http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/

GRADUATE SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION WEBSITES

- **GraduateGuide.com: www.graduateguide.com**
  Online resource providing a list of graduate schools and programs offered. Also lists graduate fields of study and which schools offer them. Provides helpful information on financing graduate study.
- **GraduateSchools.com: www.gradschools.com**
  Comprehensive online resources for graduate school and grad program information.

GENERAL TIPS

- Talk with faculty in your department about graduate school applications. Advice varies by discipline and also depends on what you want to do. For example, going to graduate school immediately after graduation is a good idea for some disciplines and not necessarily for others.
- Find out if going to graduate school will increase your job opportunities in your discipline or make it easier to secure a position in the field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) offers the most comprehensive collection of occupational data including job outlook, salary, educational requirements, and more.
- Try to visit the programs on your short list if possible.
- Decide if you will be attending graduate school to receive a master's degree only (terminal) or one that leads to a Ph.D.
- Decide whether or not a part-time or full-time program makes sense for you. This will help you narrow down your options.
- Financial aid for graduate school is different from that for undergraduate study. After the bachelor's degree, income-based financial aid does not exist. Instead graduate study can be funded by the individual (loans), individual's employer, university of study (scholarships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships), and federal programs or foundations (fellowships).