

# Grad School Timeline



## To go or not to go?

### DECIDE AT LEAST A YEAR IN ADVANCE!

Graduate school provides access to many careers: teachers in New York must complete a Master's degree to become professionally certified; social workers must earn an MSW to practice; chiropractors gain their license from chiropractic school; academic faculty achieve access to tenure-track teaching through PhDs in their discipline. However, *not everyone* goes to grad school.

### SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR/ EARLY-FALL SENIOR YEAR:

Your decision should be based on your career goal and the graduate school options available to you. Explore those options! Read about programs and talk to academic faculty and Career Services staff about possibilities. Write to schools of interest with important questions to you:

- What do your graduates do? (If they are all in an area of no interest to you that may not be the school for you)
- What is the size, location, etc. of the school?
- What is the current research interest of the faculty of the school?
- What is available in assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships?
- How are the majority of classes taught? Hands on or lecture?
- Any other questions important to **YOU!**

### REQUIREMENTS:

Know program *requirements* and know *prerequisites*. If hours of observation are required, and you have not completed those hours, you will not be accepted. If math or physics is required, and you have not had those courses, you will not be accepted.

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### SUMMER OR EARLY FALL SENIOR YEAR:

#### TESTING:

GREs, MCATs, LSATs, GMATs, MATs, are all entrance test required by many graduate schools. Although you cannot study for these tests, you can improve your ability to take them by understanding the types of questions. Study guides abound, as do some software programs on campus. (Check ASAP, the Library, and Career Services). Take GREs in the summer before senior year or register early for fall GRE's, as seats fill up quickly this time of year. Test information is available in Career Services.

### NOVEMBER TO JANUARY SENIOR YEAR:

#### APPLICATIONS:

The application process takes TIME. Applications require recommendations (see Grad School Essay card). Both are critical in the admission process. Allow sufficient time to prepare materials properly.

#### COSTS:

Applying is expensive: official transcripts, application fees, graduate testing fees, all add up! Evaluate your schools to be certain that you meet the requirements; if you do so, your time and money will be well spent. If you are eligible (with high financial need status), some of the required tests (GREs, etc.) have waivers and some schools can waive application fees as well.

#### DEADLINES:

Admissions close when the catalog says they close. Late is too late.

(Some schools have "rolling admissions" which means that they accept applications until the class is full.) But remember, admissions personnel tell us they consider early applications more, simply because they have time to do so. Be timely!

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