Graduate School Application Timeline

**Freshman and Sophomore Year**
- Explore your interests, skill-set, and career goals with a career advisor
- Conduct informational interviews with current graduate students in areas of interest
- Begin to identify 3-5 professors who could become recommendation sources

**Junior Year**
- Research areas of interest, graduate programs, and universities at graduate school fairs, online, and in person
- Register and prepare for required graduate admissions exams. Take a practice test.
- Investigate application deadlines

**Summer Before Senior Year**
- Take required graduate admissions exam. Have scores sent to the schools to which you are applying.
- Visit schools of interest. Narrow your list of schools
- Find out application requirements
- Gather financial aid information
- Make a chart of application deadlines and scholarship, fellowship, or graduate assistantship deadlines
- Write a draft of your admissions essay or personal statement
- Compile a draft of your resume/C.V.
- If your prospective program requires you to identify an advisor before admission, contact potential advisors

**Fall Semester Senior Year**
- Revise and finalize your admissions essay or personal statement with help from a career advisor
- Revise and finalize your resume/C.V. with help from a career advisor
- Request your letters of recommendation from faculty early. Make the request in person if possible and follow-up with an email. Provide them with a copy of your resume, personal statement, and programs to which you are applying. Inform faculty of whether they must submit the recommendation online or by mail.
- Take admissions examinations again (if necessary)
- Make arrangements with the registrar to send your transcripts
- Submit application materials with required fee at least three weeks in advance of application deadline
- Apply for funding
- Follow up with schools to ensure that your application is complete

**Spring Semester Senior Year**
- Schedule a mock interview with a career advisor prior to admissions committee interview
- Follow-up with registrar to have final transcripts sent
- Once you have decided on your school of choice, accept the admittance and notify the other schools to decline acceptances.
- Send a deposit to your school of choice
- Fill out FAFSA
- Send thank-you notes to people who helped you with the application process. Let them know of your acceptance(s) and your decision.