

# Grad School Application Timeline

---

## Fall – Junior Year

- Attend a graduate or law school seminar and schedule a preliminary meeting with and Advisor in Career Services
- Identify which standardized tests are required for admission and sign up for a free testing event with Kaplan (Kaplan.com) in the fall to evaluate how close you are to score requirements. You can check the Career Services web site for GRE/GMAT/MCAT practice tests.

## Spring – Junior Year

- Figure out what you want to do and begin researching programs in your field.
- Investigate preparation needed for the exam or subject test and prepare.
- Choose a test date to take the exam or any required Subject Test.

## Summer before Your Senior Year

- Continue researching programs and preparing for admissions exams.  
If you have not done a practice test, contact Kaplan.com to take GRE, GMAT, or MCAT practice test. – It'll help you focus your studying. You can also check out the Career Services web site for GRE/GMAT/GMAT practice test dates and [Study Guide Zones](#) for GRE/GMAT/MCAT practice.
- Begin a preliminary list of recommenders.
- How are you paying? Research financial aid and fellowships and assistantships as those deadlines are early. Begin filling out financial aid forms.
- If you haven't started working on your resume, start working on it now. Contact Career Services at 802.860.2720 to have a Career Advisor critique your resume.
- Know where you want to go and contact those schools for application materials.

## Fall – Senior Year

- Start writing your personal statement: Your internship or research project could be an inspiration. Start with a story and develop your essay from there. Depth is better than breadth so focus on one event/person and expand on it. Essay Edge (essayedge.com) is a great resource for samples.
- Get letters of recommendation from at least three professors/past supervisors who can speak to your academic abilities. Provide your recommenders with your resume and ask early!!!! Send thank you letters to individuals who write recommendations!
- Hopefully you've already taken the GRE/GMAT/MCAT! You may be able to take them again in the fall if you aren't happy with your scores.

## Winter – Senior Year

- Write away: Your transcripts provide a quantitative evaluation of your strengths. Your personal statement fills in the blanks. Start writing early and edit as much as possible.
- Get to work: Most graduate applications are due between November and March. From transcripts and essays to test scores, you'll need to have everything together by then. Get your applications early because most graduate schools admit students as they apply.

- Fill out the FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov): To qualify for federal aid you fill out the same form for graduate school as you did for college. Get the FAFSA in ASAP after January 1. Keep in mind that all grad students are considered independent for federal aid calculations.
- Send your scores: Make sure that your prospective schools receive your transcripts, test scores, and recommendation letters. Better safe than out of luck!

### Spring – Senior Year

- Compare offers: Keep your eye on your mailbox. Around May, you should start to receive admission offers.
- Look into alternatives: If your financial aid doesn't quite cut it, look into alternative loan programs. Remember that each sets its own terms, so compare borrower terms carefully.
- Get ready to go: You're about to start an exciting new part of your educational career. Enjoy it!

## Law School Application Timeline

---

### Fall – Junior Year

- Try to gain experience in the field; discuss internship possibilities with your career advisor (We have opportunities. with the State's Attorney and Public Defender's Offices).
- Attend a law school seminar and schedule a meeting with and advisor in Career Services.
- Begin researching schools using the [Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](#)
- Sign up for free testing event with Kaplan
- Register at <http://www.jotform.com/form/2421056214> and begin preparing for the June LSAT. You can also check out [LSAC](#) for a free law school practice test.

### Spring – Junior Year

- Register for the June LSAT.
- Obtain a copy of your credit report for one of three national credit bureaus for nominal charge.
- Start a file for letters of recommendation.

### Summer before Your Senior Year

- Take the June LSAT or register for the October LSAT if you haven't begun studying!
- If you haven't started working on your resume, start working on it now. Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor (802.860.2720) to get feedback on your resume.
- Start writing your personal statement: Start with a story and develop your essay from there. Depth is better than breadth so focus on one event/person and expand on it. Essay Edge (essayedge.com) is a great resource for samples.
- Make a list of schools you'll be applying to Use the [Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools](#).
- Register with the Law School Data Assembly Service: (<http://www.lsac.org/applying/lstdas-general-information.asp>). This is where you will house all your application information to be sent out to the different law schools. Send your transcripts to LSDAS.
- Contact any creditors to establish mutually agreed upon monthly payments.

### Fall – Senior Year

- Line up recommendations: Talk to your professors and past supervisors (someone who can speak to your academic abilities) and choose three. Provide your recommenders with your resume and ask early!!!! Be sure to write them thank you letters!
- Take the October LSAT.
- Attend a Law School workshop.
- Revise personal statement and tailor it to specific essay topics on individual applications. Have them reviewed by your career advisor.
- Finalize your resume and personal statement and have them reviewed by your career advisor.
- Complete your LSDAS report.
- Make sure your credit card payments are on track and avoid encumbering debt.
- Put finishing touches on web-based applications.
- Remind recommenders to send recommendations to schools or LSAC.
- Request, review, and submit financial aid application materials to the schools early.

### Winter –Senior Year

- Fill out the FAFSA ([fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)): To qualify for federal aid, you'll fill out the same form for graduate school as you did for college. Get the FAFSA in ASAP after January 1.
- Make sure to connect with each school to see if they have received your completed application.
- Send new transcripts to the schools and to LSDAS after they are complete.

### Spring – Senior Year

- Compare offers: Keep your eye on your mailbox. Around May, you should start to receive admission offers.
- Look into alternatives: If your financial aid doesn't quite cut it, look into alternative loan programs. Remember that each sets its own terms, so compare borrower terms carefully.
- Get ready to go: You're about to start an exciting new part of your educational career. ENJOY!

