



Applying to Graduate School

It's best to start the process early. Giving yourself ample time to gather information, prepare, and compile the necessary materials will increase your chances of being admitted.

Many graduate programs have rolling admissions, which means applications are evaluated as they arrive (rather than all at once after the final deadline), but we have included a sample timeline for a student hoping to enter graduate school in the fall.

- May:** Begin researching graduate programs. Take a GRE or GMAT practice exam to gauge how much preparation you'll need. You can find free practice exams and preparation materials on websites such as ETS.org, Princeton Review, or Kaplan Test Prep.
- June:** Sign up for a prep course if you think this would be helpful. There are many in-person and online options on the sites mentioned above. As a Loyola student, you are able to receive a discount on courses offered by Princeton Review. Contact our office to inquire about availing of this discount.
- July:** Request information from schools that interest you. Consider paying a visit to your alma mater to meet up with a few former professors. They can recommend good programs and may even help you make some connections.
- August:** Take the GRE general test. If you're not happy with your scores, you can take it again. Begin drafting your statement of purpose. This might also be called a personal statement.
- September:** Register for the November GRE subject test (if required by your intended program). Finalize your list of prospective schools, and familiarize yourself with the professors who share your research interests at each school. Contact your recommenders. Utilize the Career Center, and the Writing Center as you polish your statement of purpose.
- October:** Request official transcripts from your undergraduate institution. Send your recommenders supplemental materials (like your resume, personal statement, etc.) that they can use as a reference. Make contact with students and professors at your prospective schools. Arrange a campus visit if you can.
- November:** Have your personal statement reviewed by the Career Center, Writing Center, faculty, and friends. Take the GRE subject test (if necessary); make sure that your scores will be sent directly to schools.
- December:** Complete and submit all your applications, keeping copies of every section for your records. Verify that your recommendations have been sent.