

GRADUATE SCHOOL PLANNING CHECKLIST

Start researching sophomore year. The application process varies by program so not all the following may apply.

- / **Explore Your Career Interests**
 - Is graduate school, licensure, or additional credentials required?
 - Does your career require an accredited program?

- / **Research Graduate Programs**
 - Meet with the Grad School Program's Advisors/Coordinators.
 - Ask questions to learn more and attend info sessions if offered.

- / **Review Admission Requirements, Program Outcomes, and Track Deadlines**
 - Review Personal Statement prompts and requirements early enough to obtain further experience or skills to increase candidacy.
 - **Budget for application fees.**

- / **Check for Centralized Application System** (e.g., PSYCAS for psych grad programs, SOPHAS for public health programs, PTCAS for PT schools, etc.)

- / **Prepare for Standardized Tests** (i.e., GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, etc)

- / **Order Transcripts Far in Advance of Application Deadlines**

- / **Seek Letters of Recommendation**
 - Ask professors, supervisors, or other professionals who can speak to your academic and professional abilities (allow 2 weeks minimum for them to write letter).

- / **Write Personal Statement(s)**
 - Focus on the program/application's prompt(s). If none provided, include the following:
 - **Past:** *How long have you been interested in this career and what inspired you to pursue it?*
 - **Present:** *What experiences do you have that relate to this program and what makes you a competitive candidate?*
 - Extracurriculars, research projects, volunteerism, internships, jobs, student orgs, leadership, etc.
 - **Future:** *Why do you want to attend this program? How do you want to impact and further the prestige of this professional field?*

- / **Prepare for Interview (if required)**

- / **Check out additional resources**
 - ASPIRE Office
 - Pre-Health Professional Office
 - Eberly Writing Studio for documents review