



Sample Timeline

Junior Year

- Determine which type of graduate program best fits your career goals
- Consult with a Career Educator if you need support regarding grad school decision making
- Research specific graduate programs of interest (utilize US News rankings, Peterson's, Gradschools.com)
- Register and prepare for graduate entrance exams (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT)
- Create preliminary list of individuals to ask for letters of recommendation
- Research national scholarships and grants. Note specific deadlines
- Register for workshops held during Graduate and Professional School Week, held in the fall (<https://career.uci.edu/graduate-pro-school-week/>)
- Attend the UCI Graduate and Professional School Fair (<https://career.uci.edu/about/events/career-fairs/>)

Senior Year

SEPTEMBER

- Continue researching graduate programs of interest
- Find out when graduate transcripts must be sent and what other materials are required
- Request and review an unofficial transcript to review for accuracy
- Check applications for specific deadlines
- Register for required entrance exams
- Request letters of recommendation. Provide recommenders with relevant information to write a strong letter of support

OCTOBER

- Talk to graduate recruiters visiting the campus or in the area
- If possible, visit the schools in which you are interested. Many programs also have a virtual tour. Talk with admissions staff, department faculty, and/or current graduate students
- Write personal statement and consider contacting the UCI Writing Center if you need support (<http://www.writingcenter.uci.edu/>)
- Begin preparing your financial aid application. These are often required at the same time or earlier than admissions applications
- Request official copies of undergraduate transcript from the registrar's office to be sent to grad programs
- Complete applications and other information as requested by graduate programs

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Some admissions applications might be due as early as November
- Check on your transcripts and letters of recommendation to see that they have been sent

JANUARY

- Last chance to take the required tests for fall admissions (it may be too late for some schools)
- Check with each school to see that they have received all the materials, including test scores and financial statements

FEBRUARY (or after sending off applications)

- Continue researching graduate programs of interest and requirements

Keep in Mind...

This is a suggested timeline – your individual deadlines may vary depending on your graduate school program.

Store Your Letters of Rec Online

Avoid losing letters or asking professors to write letters to numerous schools by storing your letters online.

Try services like Interfolio (interfolio.com)

Career Pathways Resources

The Division of Career Pathways offers one-on-one graduate school advising, workshops detailing the process of applying to graduate or law school, graduate school fairs, and more! Visit career.uci.edu for details.

If You Don't Get Accepted

Talk to a career counselor to discuss some reasons why you were not accepted and decide if you should revisit your goals. Don't give up! Students are sometimes accepted on their second or third try, or later!