

# Applying to graduate school

## Is graduate school right for me?

### Things to consider

What type of graduate or professional program do you want to pursue?

How do you envision this program will help you progress in your professional goals?

How do you envision that this program will help you progress in your personal or educational goals?

When would you like to start a graduate program?

What are the pros and cons of starting a graduate program right after finishing your undergraduate degree versus applying after obtaining professional experience?

## Prepare to apply

### Research various programs

Review a list of schools and programs in your academic area. Connect with your Advisor or Faculty to discuss.

What are five more schools that are still interesting, even though they are not your highest priority? What is appealing about these schools?

Connect with professors who teach in the program. Does their research align with your areas of interest?

Does your program have a campus tour or an info session you can attend to ask questions and learn more about the institution and program?

## Consider your strengths as an applicant

What are your strongest assets as an applicant? Consider factors such as academics, previous employment, standardized tests, and extra-curricular involvement.

What are your potential weaknesses as an applicant and how can you improve in these areas through the program?

## Prepare your applications

Identify when each applications is due. Consider creating a document to track your progress and due dates.

Review the requirements for each program and plan in advance. Not all programs have the same requirements.

Schedule your graduate admission exam (GRE, GMAT and LSAT). Some exams, can be taken any time, but there are some that are only offered at certain times during the year.

Identify at least three professional references, and contact them two months before your applications are due. This allows you both to reconnect and discuss your plans for graduate school, and also provides them time to write a quality letter.

Identify the costs associated with applying. Application fees, shipping costs and travel expenses should be taken into consideration. Consider applying for scholarships or grants to off-set the cost of applying to graduate school.

## Helpful resources

### US News Graduate School Rankings

[usnews.com/best-graduate-schools](https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools)

### Petersons Guide to Graduate Schools

[petersons.com/graduate-schools](https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools)

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid

### The Princeton Review Test Prep Courses

[princetonreview.com/partner/asu](https://www.princetonreview.com/partner/asu)

### ASU Graduate Admission Service



# Graduate application timeline

All applications are different and will have different timelines/ due dates. Reference this timeline for a general review of action items to complete if you are planning to start a graduate program in a Fall semester.

## Students in second year at ASU:

### Action items for fall, spring and summer

Meet with your academic advisor to discuss graduate school and potential pre-requisites.

Explore areas of interest.

Research programs through the **Princeton review**.

Request faculty research listings

## Third year:

### Action items for fall and spring

Gather information regarding specific admission requirements (letters of recommendation, required tests, acceptable scores, portfolio, etc.).

Consider storing this information in the Grad school comparison worksheet to easily compare and contrast schools and programs.

Search for sources of financial aid.

Read various faculty research publications and consider connecting with key faculty via email to share your interest.

Apply for junior summer research fellowships and campus mentor programs.

Take practice GRE/Subject GRE/GMAT/LSAT, etc.

## Third year:

### Action items for summer

Complete the GRE/Subject GRE/GMAT/LSAT, etc.

Identify and request required supporting documentation (transcripts, academic plans, letters of recommendation, etc.)

Review admission application deadlines

Participate in summer research fellowships or study abroad.

Create draft for required essays and personal statements.

Contact references for a letter of recommendation.

## Final year at ASU:

### Action items for fall

Complete all online applications.

Apply for departmental financial aid, if needed.

Continue correspondence with key faculty.

Check status of your application routinely on the university website to ensure your application is submitted.

Connect with current graduate students through LinkedIn.

## Final year at ASU:

### Action items for spring

Order an official copy of your final transcript (with degree awarded).

Submit the **FAFSA** if needed.

Apply for external financial aid and **funding opportunities**.

Schedule a campus visit.

Send thank you notes to your contacts who provided letters of recommendation, and notify them of your enrollment in graduate school.

