



# O'NEILL CAREER HUB

## Graduate School Application Timeline

Successfully applying to graduate or professional school takes intentional thought and time and starts early. Here is a suggested timeline to follow as you explore and apply to graduate school. This is a suggested timeline only, and all programs have their own specific timelines to follow. It is important to fully research each program to clarify specific timelines.

### Spring: Junior Year

- Meet with your academic advisor, faculty members and Career Hub staff to discuss your interest in an advanced degree and determine if it is the right time.
- Research graduate programs using Petersons.com, gradschools.com, speaking with faculty members and using the [Career Hub Comparison and Tracking Tool](#)
- Research tips for writing your statement of purpose/personal statement
- Update your O'Neill tailored resume/CV and stop by the Career Studio for review
- Identify professionals to write letters of recommendation for you

### Summer: Before Senior Year

- Continue to research and compare schools using the Comparison Tool
- Research faculty and research interests at each of your target schools
- Reach out to target faculty to introduce yourself and your interests
- Write first draft of your statement of purpose/personal statement and adapt to various institutional criteria
- Request your letters of recommendation, providing writers with your current resume and links to the graduate programs

### Fall: Senior Year

- Register for and take standardized exams
- Request copies of official transcript from Registrar's office
- Finalize statement of purpose/personal statement
- Ask faculty, advisors and other professionals to review your statement of purpose/personal statement and incorporate feedback
- Apply for assistantships, scholarships and awards
- Schedule first mock interview with the Career Hub
- Touch base with your recommendation letter writers to confirm they know the deadline and have all the information they need
- Complete graduate school applications and submit prior to deadlines
- Complete and submit your FAFSA

### Spring: Senior Year

- Schedule second mock interview with the Career Hub
- Schedule and complete interviews with various institutions

- Connect with current graduate students in each target program with questions focused on your key comparison criteria
- Follow all steps in the admission and acceptance process when requested
- Once you commit to a graduate program, notify all other programs that you have made your decision
- Send thank you notes to your recommendation letter writers