

Graduate School Application Timeline

[from the Princeton Review](#)

If you're planning to apply to graduate school, it's best to start early—it will increase your odds 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).

Here's a sample schedule for a student hoping to enter grad school in the fall. This is a best-case scenario which leaves time to craft a great application, resolve unforeseen problems (a lost transcript, a delinquent recommender) and submit with time to spare.

May

Begin [researching grad schools](#). Take a [GRE practice test](#). Your GRE score will help you determine how much preparation you'll need for the real deal.

June

Sign up for a [GRE test prep course](#) (we recommend the in-person or online options). Register for the [GRE general test](#) if necessary.

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, sign up to take it again. Begin drafting your [statement of purpose](#).

September

Register for the November GRE subject test (if necessary). Finalize your list of [prospective schools](#), and familiarize yourself with the professors who share your research interests at each school. Contact your recommenders. Keep polishing 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 someone in the field and a few smart (and honest) friends read over your personal statement. Take the GRE subject test; make sure that your scores will be sent directly to schools.

December

Complete and submit all [grad applications](#), keeping copies of every section for your records. Verify that your recommendations have been sent.

