

## Graduate School Planning Timeline & Resources

### Freshman/Sophomore Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin identifying career goals using the resources and staff of the Career Development Center. Do you need a graduate school education?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your career goals and plans, including graduate school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop relationships with faculty and other Chatham University staff members and get involved on campus through student organizations, community service opportunities, internships, etc. This will help to strengthen your application.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Record your accomplishments/experiences in a journal, resume, or portfolio format and collect samples of your work for future use in preparing for graduate admissions applications, essays, and interviews.

### Early in Junior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Identify possible schools and programs. (See list of resources below).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use the internet to learn more about schools that interest you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Request hard copies of information and application materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Investigate scholarship opportunities.

### Late in Junior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine appropriate admissions tests.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Identify and begin to apply for financial aid sources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Practice interviewing (if your program requires admissions interviews).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take a practice admissions test. (Contact the Career Development Center for practice test dates).

### Summer between Junior and Senior Years

- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit your top choice schools (if possible).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin writing your personal essay or statement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take appropriate admissions test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Update your resume and/or portfolio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Verify application/financial aid deadlines.

### Early in Senior Year (September/October)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Type applications (must be error free).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete financial aid documents (must be error free). Financial aid deadlines are usually during this time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Request recommendations. Provide deadlines, program information, resume, envelopes, stamps, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain multiple copies of recommendations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have your personal essay/statement critiqued by more than one person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rewrite/polish your personal essay/statement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain official copies of your transcripts from all schools of record.

### Later in Senior Year (November/December)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mail application packet after making copies of everything for your records. Do this well before the deadline as most schools make decisions on a “first-come, first-serve” basis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send thank you notes to all references and keep them up to date on the status of your applications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Call each school to make sure that your application has arrived and is complete.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forward test scores to schools of your choice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inform all schools of your decision.

### Senior Year (Spring & Summer)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Take courses that will either give you a head start in your graduate program or will allow you to satisfy academic prerequisites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Enjoy your success and your summer!

## **A Few Words about Deadlines**

- Most applications deadlines fall between January and March (for enrollment in the fall).
- Deadlines can be as early as August (for fall enrollment the following year) for early decision programs of medical schools using the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Deadlines can be as late as spring or summer (for fall enrollment the following year) for a few programs with rolling admissions.
- For programs with rolling admissions, it is to your advantage to apply early and NOT wait until the last minute to apply.
- Be sure to keep track of all deadlines and meet them.

## **Related Websites**

College Source Online: [www.collegesource.org](http://www.collegesource.org)

Dental Admissions Testing (DAT): [www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp](http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing/dat/index.asp)

GMAC MBA Explorer: [www.gmat.org](http://www.gmat.org)

Grad Schools.com: [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com)

Graduate School Rankings: [www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex\\_brief.php](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex_brief.php)

Grants in Graduate Study: [www.nyu.edu/gsas/fininfo/gigs.html](http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/fininfo/gigs.html)

GRE: [www.gre.org/](http://www.gre.org/)

Jobweb: [www.jobweb.org/catapult/gguides.html](http://www.jobweb.org/catapult/gguides.html)

Kaplan: [www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)

LSAT: [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)

MCAT: [www.aamc.org/students/mcat/](http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/)

Peterson's Guides: [www.petersons.com/graduate](http://www.petersons.com/graduate)

Princeton Review: [www.princetonreview.com/](http://www.princetonreview.com/)