



Graduate School Timeline ::

This timeline should be used as a general guide for your graduate school exploration and application process. We recommend learning as much as you can about what is involved in applying to graduate school earlier, rather than later, in your college career.


Circumstances may vary from individual to individual.


Freshman and Sophomore Years

 Begin exploring academic and career interests. As you identify areas of interest, take time to learn more about the field and the different jobs people hold in these areas. Utilize resources such as Career Services and your faculty to explore your interests. Get to know your professors, and talk with them about their own career path.


 Even though it's early, begin to think about "life after SLU". For some careers, the planning process begins early (e.g. medical school). Familiarizing yourself with all of your options can help alleviate stress later in your academic career. If appropriate, visit with the pre-professional health studies or pre-law advisor.


Junior


 Research your interest areas by talking to faculty, advisors and professionals about graduate programs in your field.

 Identify and read professional journals in the field. Learn as much as you can about the current research and trends. Identify the leading researchers and institutions for your field of interest.







 Visit www.gradschools.com to search for particular graduate programs.

 Register and prepare for graduate admission tests. Be sure to identify by the fall when the tests are offered, so you can register in plenty of time.







 Investigate scholarship and financial aid options.

 Develop as many options as you can, then begin the elimination process by doing further research before you leave for the summer.





Summer of Junior Year

-  Call or write the remaining schools on your list for applications and program information. Continue narrowing your list as you receive information.
-  Contact admissions offices for information on acceptance rates, test scores, and GPA ranges.
-  Ask for information on placements rates and typical employers for each program.
-  Begin writing your personal statement, which should be modified for each school. Donald Asher's Graduate Admissions Essays or How to Write a Winning Personal Statement for Graduate School and Professional School by Richard J. Stelzer are good resources.
-  Identify SLU alumni currently enrolled or recently graduated from the program and contact them.
-  If you haven't already, register and begin preparing for admission tests.



September

-  Finish narrowing your list of schools.
-  Begin asking for letters of recommendation
-  Continue revising your personal statement.
-  Check on application deadlines and rolling or early admissions policies, as well as financial aid or scholarship deadlines.
-  Read the applications thoroughly and prepare any other materials requested.
-  For medical, dental and law school, register with the appropriate application and data assembly service (LSDAS, AMCAS). These services collect your materials and forward them to your schools.



October

-  Submit completed applications for early decision programs.
-  Prepare for and take graduate admissions exams (if you haven't done so already).
-  Contact schools to schedule visits during fall semester.
-  Continue to gather and complete application materials.

November

-  Continue to send applications, paying close attention to deadlines. A good rule of thumb is to submit your applications by Thanksgiving Break or shortly thereafter.
-  Follow up with graduate schools to confirm that all necessary application materials have arrived.

Spring Senior Year

-  Once you have made your decision, notify other institutions you've applied to so they can remove your name from their process.
-  Send thank you notes to those who wrote recommendation letters letting them know of your success.