



# Your Action Plan

## Freshman Year (Self-Discovery)

- Explore your interests and abilities. Talk to and visit with your academic advisor.
- Develop productive study habits and skills.
- Establish (and maintain) at least a 3.0 GPA.
- Learn to use time wisely (time management).
- Seek research opportunities.

## Sophomore Year (Assessing Options)

- Define and establish your personal and career goals.
- Determine a relevant major and minor. Talk to graduate students and faculty in your major area about graduate studies.
- Begin to make contacts in your chosen area.
- Identify potential mentoring relationships with professors.
- Begin or continue conducting undergraduate research with a professor as applicable.
- Attend graduate and professional school fairs, career expos, and virtual career fairs.
- Begin web searches on summer research opportunities, internships, and co-ops and apply to those which match your goals.
- Attend professional document review sessions and schedule mock interviews.

## Junior Year (Setting Goals)

- Examine and confirm your career choice.
- Strengthen your mentoring relationships. Discuss your interests with faculty and advisors.
- Research appropriate graduate programs. Contact departments and visit programs and campuses that interest you, when possible. Consider university location, weather, and cost of living.
- Get acquainted with the research work of the faculty in the graduate programs that interest you.
- Research entrance exam/test dates and fees (such as GRE, MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, etc.) Study for the exams. Take the appropriate entrance exam.
- Attend graduate and professional school fairs, career expos, and virtual career fairs.
- If possible, participate in a summer internship. This can be an important step toward graduate school admission.

## Senior Year (Making Your Selection)

- Contact faculty with whom you may want to work with, after you have familiarized yourself with their research. Remember, it is faculty who decide to admit students to graduate programs.
- Apply Early! Inquire about application deadlines based on when you plan to enroll.
- Complete the application process (letters of recommendation and statement of purpose, transcripts, etc.).
- Research application fees and fee waiver options.
- Contact the schools to ensure that the application is complete.
- Register to take the entrance examination as required.
- Apply early for federal funding fellowships (e.g. NSF, NIH, NASA, Ford, AAUW), federal financial aid (FAFSA), and/or other university/departmental funding opportunities.
- Attend professional document review sessions and schedule mock interviews.