# Applying for Graduate & Professional School

## Process and Timeline

### Get Started!

#### Sophomore Year

- Research types of programs and institutions that interest you, paying close attention to faculty interests
- If you are interested in applying for a fellowship to fund grad school, speak with a Career Adviser
- Talk to a Career Adviser about how to include courses and experiences on your resume

#### Junior Year

- Become familiar with program requirements
- Try to visit or do virtual tours of institutions
- Draft your personal statement
- Plan to take entrance exams early in case you decide to retake them later
- Find a faculty mentor or person in the field willing to help you compile your application documents

#### Senior Year

##### August and September

- Take or retake entrance exams
- Discuss your personal statement with a Career Adviser
- Begin to compile application materials
- Contact references and recommendation letter writers

##### October

- Research and begin to apply for financial aid
- Order your transcripts for each institution
- Send thank-you notes to references/letter writers

##### November

- Revise application materials to be prepared for submission (be aware of specific deadlines depending on institution and program)

##### February or March

- Make your final decision and notify other institutions of your choice
- Complete your FAFSA

##### December and January

- Follow up with all institutions to make sure they have received application materials
- Find out the interview process for each institution, if applicable

##### April and May

- Finalize all the applications for your financial aid
- Work with the institution to complete all contracts and paperwork

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**Career Education Office**

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![Earlham College](image)