



GRADUATE SCHOOL PREP TIMELINE

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

Your first two years in college is a great time to reflect on your professional goals and aspirations.

The best way to do this is to continue learning about what work in your field looks like and using your network to get connected to professionals who can give you insight into their experiences.

1

Freshman Year Fall Term

- Meet with your Academic Advisor.
- Focus on establishing strong study habits and adjusting to the pace and rigor of your classes.
- Meet with your Career Management Specialist.
- Log into Engage to check out student organizations.

Freshman Year Spring Term

2

- Create a LinkedIn account and complete your profile.
- Explore career fields within your plan of study using Career Advancement Center aptitude tests and exploration resources.
- Outline your long-term career goals, envision what your ideal career path looks like.

3

Sophomore Year Fall Term

- Connect with faculty in your department and share some of your professional and academic goals.
- Meet with your Career Management Specialist to begin exploring summer internship opportunities and have your resume reviewed.
- Begin applying for summer internships related to your field.
- Attend the Graduate School Fair and Fall Career Fair.

Sophomore Year Spring Term

4

- Continue applying for summer internships related to your field and attend the Spring Career Fair.
- Use LinkedIn to identify professionals in your field of study and connect with them to learn more about their professional journey.



Use LinkedIn to connect with local professionals in your field and utilize your connection to Rutgers faculty for additional opportunities to talk about your interests and vision for the future.

If you are uncertain about your future career path, schedule time with your Career Management Specialist to discuss potential pathways.



GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION TIMELINE

JUNIORS & SENIORS

1 Junior Year Fall Term

- Meet with your Career Management Specialist to discuss professional goals related to graduate study.
- Identify at least 3 schools/programs that you are interested in applying to, then review their application requirements.
- Begin studying for GRE or tests required to apply.
- Attend the Graduate School Fair and Fall Career Fair.
- Apply for relevant summer internship opportunities.

Most of the work you need to do to apply to a graduate program is done during your junior year and the summer before you go into your senior year.

The strongest applicants are the ones who manage their time effectively and do not rush through the application.

Junior Year Spring Term 2

- Begin thinking about financing your graduate degree. Research scholarships, fellowships and graduate assistantships that are applicable to the programs you plan to apply to.
- Attend an info session or open house for the universities and programs you're interested in.
- Connect with faculty and staff mentors to request Letters of Recommendation before the end of the term.

3 Junior Year Summer

- Schedule and complete any required tests/assessments before the end of August.
- Begin working on application materials for selected programs.

Senior Year Fall Term 4

- Reach out to selected faculty/staff recommenders to provide submission instructions and deadline within the first two weeks of classes.
- Complete application materials for selected programs and scholarships and hit submit.
- Consider exploring options for a summer internship.

5 Senior Year Fall Term

- Continue working on application materials for scholarships or supplemental opportunities.
- Attend the Spring Career Fair



The team at the Career Advancement Center is available to assist with your application process and writing your personal statement.