Career Development

Preparing for Graduate School

Graduate Admissions Timeline

Fall of your Junior Year
- Compile a list of your top ten schools based on your areas of interest.
- Investigate financial aid options: fellowships, assistantships, and loans.
- Become familiar with admissions requirements—they vary by school.

Winter — Junior Year
- Narrow your list to top five schools for your area of interest.
- Visit campus of top five schools, and meet faculty and students.

Spring — Junior Year
- Send for application materials.
- Register for graduate tests required for your area of study.
- Begin preparing for graduate tests.
- Request letters of recommendation.
- Write draft statement of purpose.

Summer
- Obtain letters of recommendation.
- Request grade transcripts—send directly to schools.
- Finalize statement of purpose.

Fall — Senior Year
- Check application deadlines for schools to which you will apply.
- Take graduate admission (standardized) tests.
- Apply for national fellowships.
- Submit application materials.

Spring — Senior Year
- Schedule confirmation visits to schools.
- Notify chosen college of your acceptance.
- Notify other colleges and financial aid providers if you are declining their offers.
- Make plans to move to new school—housing, banking, etc.

University of Arkansas