

Preparing for Graduate School

**A Joint Workshop Sponsored by the Water
Resources Graduate Program and PNW LSAMP**

A Timetable for Prospective Graduate Students

There is no perfect recipe for success, but this timetable will help you succeed as an undergraduate and prepare you for a graduate career.

You've already taken the first step -- thinking about graduate school early -- Good for you!





Freshman and Sophomore Year

- Take courses in your major (especially MATH!) and develop the habits that lead to academic success
 - Meet with your advisor regularly, plan ahead
 - Develop good study skills and habits, use centers and tutoring
 - Talk to your professors and attend their office hours
 - Form or participate in a study group, student organization or club
- Talk to other students in your program, especially students who are farther along in the program
- Develop a résumé and go to career fairs
- Apply for summer opportunities; research experience, field experience, and/or study abroad (Internships, Student Conservation Association, REU, URISC)



Junior Year

- Review career goals, major; are you on track for graduation? Can you meet entrance requirements of your target graduate programs ?
- **Early in the year**, apply for internships & research opportunities
- Meet with your advisor, take advantage of writing centers, tutoring
- Keep talking with professors, and attend office hours, study groups
- Take a leadership role in student clubs or organizations



Junior Year

- Take a leadership role in student clubs or organizations
- Update résumé, attend career fairs and conferences.
- Prepare for and take the GRE (or LCAT or MCAT)
- Identify potential graduate programs of interest, contact professors
- Visit campuses. Talk to graduate students as well as professors
- Complete an REU, internship, or URISC project



Senior Year

- Develop a Statement of Purpose
- Finish strong in your academics! Complete your senior thesis, honors thesis, or project paper
- Re-take the GRE if necessary
- Decide which graduate programs to apply to, note application deadlines, and apply!
- Ask professors for letters of recommendation early. Provide them with your résumé and all the information they will need to complete and send those letters. Tell them why you are interested in a particular graduate program.
- If you know what type of research project you want to do and have communicated with prospective advisors, apply to NSF for a Graduate Fellowship

Tips for Applying to Graduate Programs

- “Do your homework” before contacting someone
- When you contact a professor or director, tell them about yourself, if using email, attach a résumé
- Keep first contact simple (what should you say?)
- Visit campus
- Follow up, and thank people for their time
- Consider Peace Corps, Americorps, a job as well
- Be a mentor when it’s your turn!



Follow Up Opportunities

Make graduate school happen for yourself, don't just let graduate school happen to you....

Please feel free to contact our offices and programs for more information on graduate school and our programs

- <http://oregonstate.edu/gradwater/>
- <http://depts.washington.edu/omad/lsamp-home/>
- <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/manrrs/>

Thank you for attending this workshop. Good luck!