

**Proposed Graduate School Timeline** (from [Getting In: A Step-By-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology](#) by American Psychological Association (Paperback - Jan 2007)

This timeline was set up for an ideal application situation for students who know that they would like to attend graduate school the year after they graduate with their bachelors. Note that many masters programs have due dates in February, March, and April, so you will need to tailor this timeline according to deadlines of the programs to which you are applying. Some programs will admit students in the Spring or Summer in addition to Fall. Many graduate school applicants will take a few years to work as a researcher in a lab, to gain experience in social services or to figure out their path.

**Junior Year (or before)**

- Find out research interests of faculty at your school, read their articles, and make acquaintance with those whose work interests you.
- Take a class or two with the professors whose subfield of psychology interests you; ask if you can assist them with their research through the Reading and Research course.
- Find out if you are qualified to join Psi Chi and decide whether to become a member.
- Get research and other field-related experiences pertinent to areas of psychology in which you're interested. The Reading and Research course would be a good way to do this.
- Peruse *Graduate Study in Psychology* and check out resources at Career Counseling Center.
- Send away for information on GREs and MAT. Use study guides or attend a course to prepare. Take practice exams.

**Summer Before Your Senior Year**

- Request application packet from programs that seem to be a good match with your interests, goals and credentials to obtain information about the program and about financial aid (Compile list of programs based on conversations with faculty and books such as *Graduate Study in Psychology*).
- Calculate application fees and travel costs for interviews and make sure you have enough money to cover these costs.

**September of Your Senior Year**

- Apply no later than first week of September to take GREs in October if haven't taken them previously.
- Request undergraduate transcript to give to those who will write letters of recommendation.
- Prepare resume for letter writers.

**October**

- Finalize list of schools to which you plan to apply (apply to range of schools). **YOU SHOULD APPLY TO 7-10 PROGRAMS AT LEAST!**
- Take GREs and, if required, Miller Analogies Test (only required by some schools); request that scores be sent to all schools to which you will apply.
- Ask faculty for letters of recommendation.
- Begin filling out application and financial aid forms.
- Write first drafts of essays; ask others for feedback.

**November**

- Request that undergraduate transcripts be sent to all institutions to which you are applying.
- Finalize application and financial aid forms and essays.
- Supply individuals who will write your letters of recommendation with the packet you prepared for them, including any forms sent by each school.

**December**

-Carefully prepare each application for mailing. Keep photocopy of each.

**January/February**

-Follow up to confirm that your completed applications and all letters of recommendation were received.

-Thank those who wrote letters of recommendation.

-Attend any pre-selection interviews to which you are invited.

**March/April**

-Accept/decline offers.

-Call or write people who wrote you letters of recommendation and inform them of the outcome.

