

Graduate School Timeline

WSU Vancouver Career Services

Freshman/Sophomore Years

- Explore different interests through a variety of coursework, campus involvement activities, jobs, volunteer work, etc.
- Meet with a career counselor to conduct a self-assessment
- Begin to gain experience by working on or off campus, volunteering, and getting involved in campus organizations
- Choose a major
- Meet with faculty to learn more about career options and build relationships
- Explore internship and research opportunities
- Evaluate career goals and ask yourself tough questions about why you want to go to graduate school

Junior Year

- Gain additional internship and/or research experience
- Research schools, programs, and degree options to develop a list of graduate programs of interest
- Discuss programs with “experts:” supervisors, career counselors, advisors, and faculty
- Understand which entrance exam you may need to take, the format, and any requirements – then study for the exam
- Visit schools of interest if possible
- Develop strong professional relationships with faculty and supervisors
- Maintain excellent academic performance

Summer Before Senior Year

- Select 5-6 schools you will apply to – learn and record their deadlines and application requirements
- Begin writing your personal statement(s) and updating your resume or CV
- Have your personal statement reviewed by multiple “experts”
- Take (or re-take) required graduate admissions test(s) and have scores sent to your chosen schools
- Download a copy of our unofficial transcript to assist with application completion
- Visit schools if you haven’t already
- Explore funding opportunities and corresponding application processes and deadlines
- Take on final opportunities to get additional experience
- Brainstorm and choose at least 3 professors who could write you positive letters of reference and prepare to request them at the start of the semester

Fall Semester Senior Year

- Meet with at least 3 professors to ask for a positive letter of reference – provide them with information on career goals, requirements of the letters, your resume, and the addresses
- Familiarize yourself with faculty at the chosen schools, reach out to introduce yourself, note who you would like to work with in your applications
- Finalize your personal statement(s)
- Finalize required application materials
- Request undergraduate transcripts be sent well in advance of deadlines (at least 1 ½ months prior)

- o Complete additional applications for TA/RA/GA positions or other funding opportunities
- o Complete financial aid forms
- o Confirm that each school has received all your application materials (check prior to deadlines so you can solve any issues that may arise)

Spring Semester Senior Year

- o Attend interviews if necessary
- o Monitor the progress of applications
- o Make final decisions, submit acceptance letters, and pay deposits if necessary
- o Inform reference letter writers (via thank you notes) and the other schools who accepted you
- o Send updated transcripts (if required by schools)
- o Consider faculty you want on your committee at your new school
- o Continue to apply for funding opportunities

Timeline for Pre-Health applications is generally 3-6 months ahead of this schedule. Please refer to the College of Arts & Sciences Advising Center (CASAC) for questions.

<u>Freshman-Sophomore Year</u> Explore interests Meet with a career counselor Conduct a self-assessment Gain experience through working, volunteering, and getting involved in campus organizations Choose a major Meet with faculty and build relationships Explore internship and research opportunities Evaluate career goals and ask yourself tough questions about whether you want to go to graduate school	<u>Junior Year</u> Gain additional experience Research schools, programs, and degree options Understand which entrance exam you may need to take, the format, and any requirements Begin preparing for the exam(s) Discuss programs with “experts” Develop strong professional relationships with faculty Maintain excellent academic performance Visit schools of interest
<u>Summer between Junior & Senior Year</u> Select 5-6 schools you will apply to – learn and record their deadlines and application requirements Take required admission test(s) and have scores sent to your chosen schools Begin writing personal statement(s) and updating your resume/CV Explore funding opportunities and corresponding application processes and deadlines Brainstorm at least 3 professors who could write you positive letters of reference Visit schools if you haven’t already Get some additional experience	<u>Senior Year</u> Choose at least 3 professors and meet to ask them for positive letters of reference. Research faculty at chosen schools Finalize required application materials Request undergraduate transcripts Complete additional applications for TA/RA/GA positions or other funding opportunities Confirm the schools received your applications Attend interviews if necessary Monitor progress of applications Make final decisions Continue to apply for funding opportunities