The Graduate School Application Process

Junior Year: Fall and Spring
• Attend Graduate School workshops offered by CALS Career Services.
• Visit Graduate Schools in attendance at CALS Career Expo.
• Determine your financial resources. Consider how this may affect your choice of programs in-state versus out-of-state (tuition differences), how many programs you will apply to (application fees) and whether or not you will need to obtain a paid assistantship or other paid work while in school.
• Determine areas of special interest and whether you desire an academic or professional based program.
• Research related institutions and programs (Peterson's Guides and professors are both good resources).
• Talk to advisors/professors about the application process.
• Register for appropriate graduate admissions tests (i.e. GRE, MCAT, LSAT). Study and take practice exams if desired.
• Write resume and have it critiqued by CALS Career Services. You may wish to include this in your application.
• Ask supervisors/professors for letters of recommendation. Provide a copy of your resume to assist them.

Junior Year: Summer
• Investigate national scholarships.
• Take required graduate admission tests.
• Write schools of choice for application materials (both for programs of study and assistantships).
• Visit institutions of interest, if possible.
• Write your application essay. Have it critiqued by a career counselor and/or a writing professor.
• Check on application deadlines vs. rolling admissions policies (both for programs of study and assistantships).
• For medical, dental, osteopathy, podiatry, or law school, you may need to register for the national application or data assembly service most programs use.

Senior Year: Fall
• Obtain letters of recommendation.
• Request copies of transcript from the Registrar's office and send as requested.
• Take graduate admission tests if you have not already done so.
• Apply for financial aid or student loans, as well as scholarships, if desired or necessary.
• Send completed applications.

Senior Year: Spring
• Check with institutions before deadlines to make sure files are complete.
• Interview at institutions that require an interview for either program admittance or assistantships.
• Visit institutions that accept you, investigate housing options, and make final decision.
• Talk to students currently enrolled in the program.
• Send deposit to institution of choice.
• Notify others institutions that accepted you so that they may admit students on their waiting list.
• Send thank you notes to people who wrote your recommendation letters.

You may not be able to adhere to this timetable if your application deadlines are very early, as is the case with medical schools, or if you decide to attend graduate school at the last minute. In any case, keep in mind the various application requirements, and be sure to meet all deadlines.