

Applying to Graduate School

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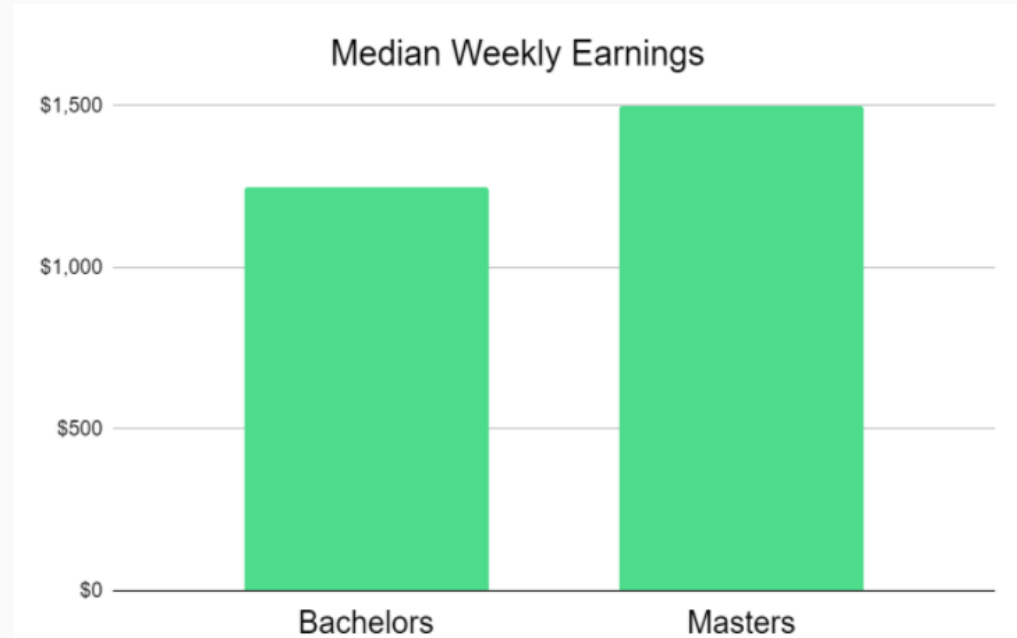
Outline

- Why consider grad school
- Identify interests
- Research
- Planning
 - Resume building
 - Dates & Deadlines
 - Documents & Tests
- Reach out
- Apply
- Timeline



Why should you consider graduate school?

- What are your career goals?
- Future earning potential
 - Individuals with a masters made 15% more in 2019 (on a weekly basis)



Identify Interests: Informational interviews



Informational interview: Discussion with a professional about their career path. Gain insight from experience of others.

- Informational interviews are recommended for determining your career path. You will be able to make an informed grad school choice if you are pursuing a program that will help you get a job you desire in the future.

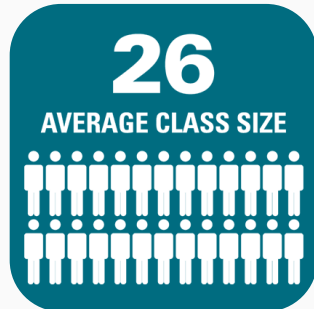
Identify 3 Interests & Research

- After completing informational interviews, identify your top 3 career choices.
- What degree & skills do you need to pursue this career?
- What graduate program did your interviewee go through?



Research continued:

- Research programs available
 - Sort by location, class size, retention rate, cost (in state tuition vs out of state)
 - Reach out to program director with any questions



Planning Process



- Write down deadlines & requirements
 - **Submit early for scholarship/funding consideration**
 - January is typical deadline
- Set up a calendar dedicated to grad school preparation
- Consider your resume, do you stand out? (ie. volunteer, internship, etc.)
 - It's never too late to get involved!

Planning continued

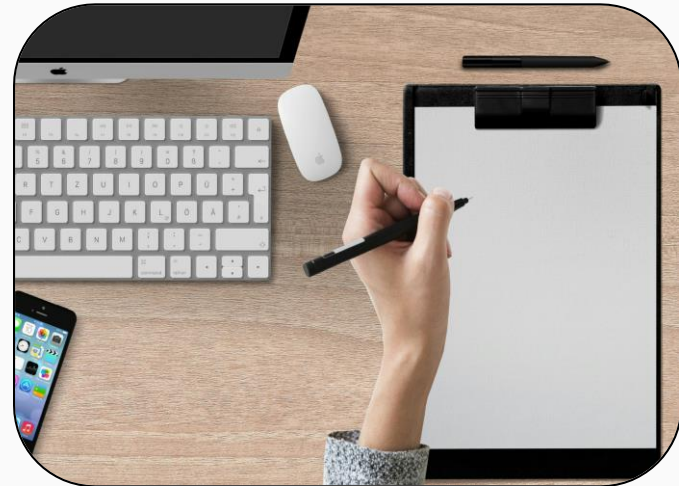
Make a checklist of all required documents:

- GRE (or other tests)
 - Need time to prepare, take exam, and wait for results!
 - Build a study schedule
- Personal statement
 - Review with tutoring center
- Resume
 - Review with career center



Planning continued

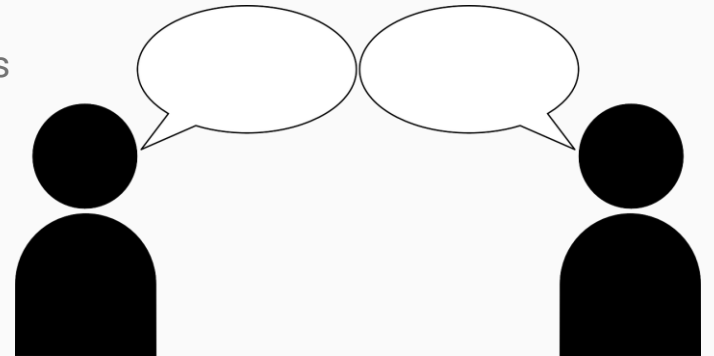
- Letters of recommendation
 - Participate in class
 - Attend office hours
- Transcript
 - Official transcript can take a few days to process
- Program requirements
 - Some programs require undergrad classes



Reach out



- Reach out to **admissions staff**
- Attend open houses (virtual or in person)
 - Virtual open house advantages
 - Look professional
- Reach out to professors
 - They may have funds to give out for student researchers
- **Recommenders**
 - **Request letter** (closer to app deadline)
 - Send them resume



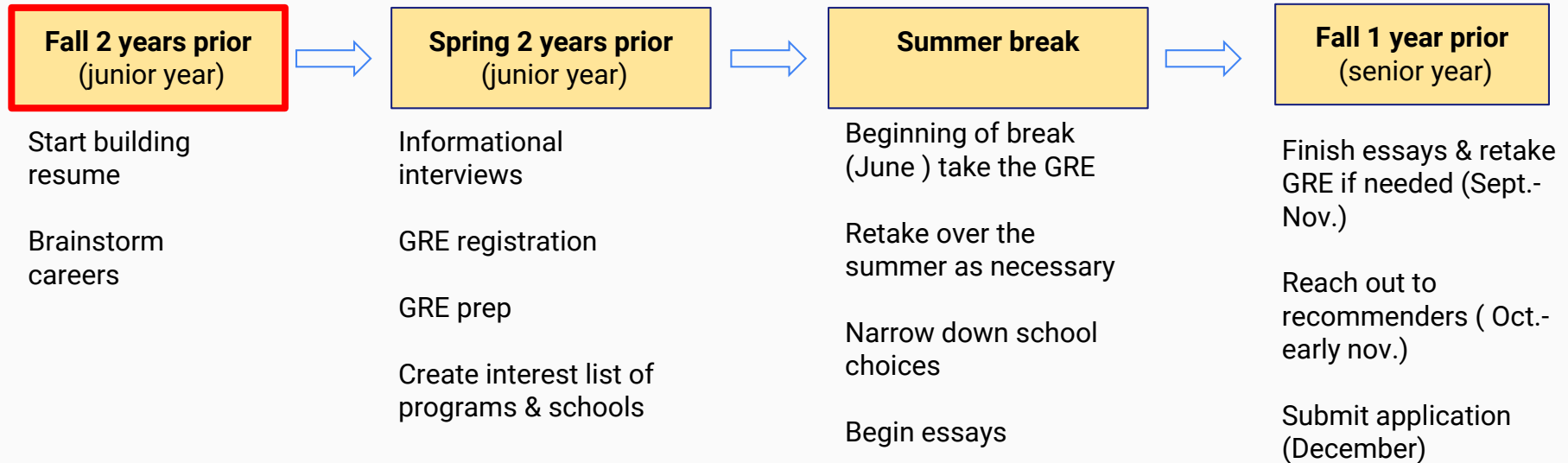
Apply!

- Scholarship applications
- Early deadline
- Spring vs fall semester entry



Ideal Timeline

How early should I start preparing for applying to graduate school?



Timeline continued

Applying early has advantages... but if you aren't ready take a gap year or two!

- Gain **real life experience**
 - Improves your resume
 - Possible letter of recommendation
 - Allows a “test run” of desired career or field



Good luck!