Preparing for Graduate & Professional School

Step 1
DETERMINE WHY AND WHEN
- Determine why you want to go to graduate/professional school.
  - Does a graduate/professional school degree help you with your short-term and long-term career goals?
  - Graduate school offers an advanced program of study in certain disciplines (Master’s, PhD, EdD) and Professional school prepares students for careers in specific fields (medical, law, pharmacy).
- Determine when you want to go to graduate/professional school.
  - Do you want to go immediately upon graduation or do you want to gain some work experience first?

Step 2
EXPLORE PROGRAMS
- Begin to explore programs.
  - What schools offer your program of interest?
  - Are you limited to a certain geographic location?
  - Review program mission statements.
  - Are you competitive for admission to each program?
  - How many programs do you want to apply to?
  - Make appointments to speak with representatives from programs of interest.

Step 3
GATHER KEY DATA
- Examples of key data to gather:
  - Length of program
  - Deadline to apply
  - Application fee
  - Are there prerequisite courses required?
  - What admissions testing is required & deadline to submit these scores?
  - Are letters of recommendation required?
  - Is there an essay required?

Step 4
ENTER KEY DATA INTO A SPREADSHEET
- Choose a spreadsheet of choice (Excel, Google Docs, LibreOffice, etc.).
  - Enter the key data and any other important information into the spreadsheet.
- Remember to pay close attention to all details as you research each program. Staying organized is key to a successful graduate/professional school search.