



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.

Use Your Resources

MEET WITH YOUR CAREER ADVISOR

Please remember to use your resources throughout this process. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Career Advisor, Amy Soter (soter.6@osu.edu).

[HTTPS://CPHE.OSU.EDU/STUDENTS/CAREERS](https://cphe.osu.edu/students/careers)

