

Timeline

Stephen F. Austin State University | Center for Career and Professional Development

Apply early! Typically, application deadlines range from August 1 (before your senior undergraduate year) to July 1 (after your senior undergraduate year). Begin your evaluation of graduate programs at least one year in advance of graduation!

To how many graduate schools should you apply?

In general, apply to 3 - 6 schools with programs that match your interests. Remember, each application will entail a fee. If you are accepted to more than one at the end of the process, all the better!

To cover all bases, many students apply to:

- one prestigious competitive school
- one major university where you feel you have a reasonable chance of being accepted
- one institution where you feel certain to be accepted

Application timeline

At least 1 year before starting a graduate program

- Research schools by website
- Request information from the school
- Visit campuses
- Practice/Study for standardized tests

1 year – 9 months before starting program

- Sign up and take required standardized test(s)
- Review application packets
- Prepare required documents, essays, and personal statements
- Ask for references
- Watch for admission and financial aid deadlines

7 – 9 months before starting program

- Complete applications and financial aid forms
- If provided, give references the recommendation forms to complete
- Submit applications by mail or electronically
- Follow up by phone to verify all materials received
- Regularly check your email and snail mail for updates on the status of your application