Prepare for Graduate School Now!

**Third Year, Fall at UCF (60-75 Credits)**

- Identify Graduate Programs and Schools
  - Establish criteria to compare/contrast:
    - Cost, funding, geographic location, accreditation, reputation in your discipline, employment after graduation, research, etc.

- Engage in Undergraduate Research
  - Start an independent research project
  - Present or publish your research
  - Attend conferences

- Continue to Get Involved and Give Back
  - Seek leadership positions

- Prepare Financially by Budgeting
  - Create a budget to track spending and stay on track with your savings goals

- Apply to Summer Research Programs
  - Strategize applications to match graduate programs of interest

- Attend Graduate School Fairs
  - Create a list of questions to ask Graduate Coordinators

- Start Studying for Admission Tests (e.g. GRE)

- Maintain Relationships with Faculty

- Reflect on Your Experiences
  - Practice your educational elevator speech

- Further Explore Grad Prep Resources from AAP
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Third Year, Spring at UCF (75-90 Credits)

- Plan to Apply to Graduate Programs
  - Create a list of top programs
  - Develop a plan of all application processes and deadlines

- Identify network with possible recommenders

- Learn about Funding Options
  - Find information on fellowships, assistantships, or other funding opportunities (internal and external)
  - Email to ask about financial assistance that may be available
  - Create a plan to apply for several funding options

- Continue to Engage in Undergraduate Research
  - Present or publish your research
  - Attend conferences
  - Apply for Summer Research Opportunities

- Learn more about your top 10 graduate programs
  - Apply for Visitation Days
  - Attend Graduate School Fairs
  - Communicate with Program Coordinators

- Register and continue to study for Admission Tests (e.g. GRE) if applicable

- Reflect on Your Experiences
  - Collate learning artifacts for your ePortfolio
  - Self-assess acquired skills

- Further Explore Grad Prep Resources from AAP at aap.ucf.edu
Prepare for Graduate School Now!

Third Year, Summer (90-100 Credits)

▷ Finalize list of Graduate Programs you want to attend
  □ Create a timeline to submit all application pieces by each deadline

▷ Ask Faculty for Letters of Recommendation
  □ Ask early and send reminders to your recommenders when deadlines approach

▷ Continue to Study and Take Admission Tests (e.g. GRE)
  □ Plan to take test in summer or early fall

▷ Draft Admissions Essay(s)
  □ Understand which statements are needed and practice several writing prompts

▷ Continue to Learn about Funding Options (e.g. NSF, FORD)
  □ Find information on fellowships, assistantships, or other funding opportunities (internal and external)
  □ Plan to apply earlier than deadlines

▷ Engage in a Summer Research Program

▷ Continue to Connect with Admissions Coordinators and Faculty at your Desired Graduate School(s)

▷ Visit Campuses and Meet with Students and Faculty
  □ Learn about and apply to visitation days that may take place in the fall

▷ Reflect on Your Experiences
  □ Complete your ePortfolio

▷ Further Explore Grad Prep Resources from AAP