

MASTERING

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



UCF

**Academic
Advancement Programs**

MASTERS

Prepare for Graduate School Now!

▶▶▶ **Thrd 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

