Graduate School: Where Do I Begin?

The Application Process
Most people start the process of application a full year and a half before they would begin graduate school.

- Deadlines may range from August to late spring or summer
- Plan to meet deadlines!
- Applying early to a school with rolling admissions is advantageous because it gives committees more time to evaluate subjective parts of application and not just numbers

Six months prior:
- Research areas of interest, institutions, and programs
- Talk to advisors about application requirements
- Register and prepare for appropriate graduate admissions tests
- Investigate national scholarships
- Get letters of recommendation (usually about 3)

Three months prior:
- Take the graduate admissions tests
- Write for application materials
- Write your application essay
- Check your deadlines and rolling admissions policies
- For medical, dental, osteopathy, podiatry, or law school, you may need to register for the national application or data assembly service most programs use

Fall, a year before you would go:
- Make sure you have the letters of recommendation.
- Take the graduate admissions test
- Send in completed applications

Winter, before attending in the fall:
- Complete FAFSA and Financial Aid Profile, if needed

Spring, before attending in the fall:
- Check with institutions before their deadlines that your application is complete
- Visit institutions that accept you
- Send a deposit to the institution of your choice
- Notify other colleges and universities of your choice so they can contact people on their waiting lists
- Send a thank-you note to your recommenders