

graduate & professional school planning timeline

1

Determine if your career goals require a graduate or professional degree.

Not sure? Take Focus2 at www.mga.edu/cclcd and meet with a career advisor!

2

Shadow, volunteer, and pursue research and internship opportunities that will augment your academic experience.

Talk with Career Development and your faculty to gather ideas. Use Handshake to identify potential internships.

3

Talk to your faculty early in the year to begin preparing for potential recommenders.

Prepare for and take required admissions tests. Many professional programs have a specific test. When they do not, the GRE is the most common. Check with each institution to be sure you are taking the correct test.

Register for any centralized graduation admission portals related to your field. This is common for professional health degrees and law. Many applications open in the summer before your senior year.

Finalize your list of institutions. Use professional associations associated with your field, Google searches, faculty, and career advisors to narrow down your list.

Update your resume or CV so that you can include it with your outreach to faculty about your recommendations. Brainstorm personal statements and prepare drafts.

Be sure to get feedback from Career Development on your resume. Don't use a template and stick to resources provided career development services at the university.

By summer, get ready to start your applications!

4

If you plan to enroll the fall after you graduation, applications are due as early as fall of senior year or as late as summer after graduation.

Get feedback from the CCLD, your faculty mentors, the Writing Center, and others when you write your personal statement.

Early applications may be considered for scholarships, assistantships, and be more likely to be admitted.

ongoing
tasks

- Keep your GPA above a 3.0
- Talk with individuals who are in the field you want to pursue
- Get advice from faculty and career development advisors
- Build your experience with volunteer, shadowing, internships, research, and community and campus leadership



Center for Career & Leadership Development

www.mga.edu/cclcd | mga.joinhandshake.com | careerservices@mga.edu

Student Life Center 261 (Macon) | Sanford 112 (Cochran)

professional school resources

Law

Law School Admission Council
lsac.org/applying-law-school

Medicine

Association of American Medical Colleges (MD)
American Medical College Application Services (AMCAS)
www.aamc.org

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
AACOMAS Application Service
www.aacom.org

Dentistry

American Dental Education Association
www.adeal.org

Pharmacy

PharmCAS: Pharmacy Centralized Application Service
<https://www.pharmcas.org/>

Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service
www.ptcas.org

Optometry

Optom CAS: Centralized Application Service for Optometry
<https://www.optomcas.org/>

Public Health

SOPHAS: Centralized Application for Public Health
<https://sophas.org/>

Speech Pathology

CSDCAS: Centralized Application Service for Communication Science & Disorders
csdcas.liaisoncas.org

Occupational Therapy

American Occupational Therapy Association & OTCAS
www.aota.org

Veterinary Medicine

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges & VMCAS
www.aavmc.org

Physician Assistant

CASPA: Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants
caspa.liaisoncas.com

Masters, Ph.D., and other doctoral programs

For these programs, you will apply directly to the program and the institution's graduate school.

Determine which programs are best for your career goals. If you want to stay in the field related to your undergraduate major, talk with faculty early on for advice.

Thinking about a career unrelated to your major? Talk with career development services early.



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