

# *Junior Year Graduate School Checklist*

*by Economics Career Services*

Are you looking to further your education beyond undergrad? Planning for grad school can be stressful, but is necessary to get into a good program. This checklist from Economics Career Services is designed to show you steps you can take your junior year to prepare for grad school.



# Fall Semester

Speak to advisors/professors, and do your own research to determine whether graduate school is something you're really interested in pursuing

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Create a google spreadsheet for all graduate school-related information:

- What schools you're interested in
  - What application requirements each school has
  - Important deadlines
  - Tuition
  - Any other relevant information
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Make a list of graduate programs you're interested in. Then, narrow down you list after speaking to graduate advisors about the programs

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Email [econ-careers@illinois.edu](mailto:econ-careers@illinois.edu), or make a career advising appointment with Economics Career Services if you have specific questions pertaining to graduate schools

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# Spring Semester

- By the end of the semester, make a general rank order of the schools you would like to attend

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- Narrow down your list by speaking to graduate advisors about their programs (if you didn't finish this in the fall or have found other schools you're interested in). Update your spreadsheet with this information

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- Start preparing for any graduate standardized tests (ie GRE, GMAT, or others) required by institutions. Make a long-term study schedule that budgets how much preparation time you will need

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- Sign up for an exam date during the summer (latest in August)

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# Summer

Go on some initial campus visits if possible, or participate in virtual campus tours

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Attend graduate admissions information sessions

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Do some additional research!

- Read student reviews
- Research alumni and their accomplishments
- Check out graduate school rankings
- Look at the type of press the school receives
- Read institutional/student-run publications
- Research how the institution is ranked against its contemporaries

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Take the graduate standardized test(s) you need to apply

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Start thinking about whom you will ask to write your letters of recommendation

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Try to narrow down your graduate school list (without deleting previous research + other schools). You can apply to as many as you'd like, but should have a better idea of which programs closely match your needs and wants--based on your research

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