**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

We suggest you begin approximately one year before graduation.    
Study individual application deadlines carefully for each school, since they may vary.

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| **Summer** Research potential programs.  Discuss with faculty. Ask for letters of recommendation. Write a draft [personal statement](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/students/explore/statements.php). |
| **September** Arrange to take [admissions tests](http://www.jobweb.com/studentarticles.aspx?id=816), if required. |
| **October** Identify on-line application sites for programs of interest.  Research [potential sources of funding](http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/grad/funding.htm).  Inquire about specific fellowships and departmental teaching and research assistantships at schools of interest.  Note their upcoming deadlines. |
| **November** [Order transcripts](http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/faq/transcript.html).  Ask Registration and Records if they can send a transcript with your fall semester grades in time to meet deadlines. |
| **December** Give your references forms to complete or the addresses to which they should send their letters of recommendation.  Provide your references with copies of your resume and personal statement. |
| December/January Apply on-line.  Even if deadlines are later, it is preferable to submit your applications early. |
| **February** Contact programs about campus visits.  Make trips if possible. |
| **April** If you are applying for need-based financial aid, you may be asked to submit information from your federal tax return.  Keep a copy handy. |