

## Graduate School Timeline (Natural Science)

### First Year Recommendations

- Attend the JumpStart Workshop hosted by the Career Center (*available Fall or Spring*)
- Participate in at least one of the following extracurricular activities: American Chemical Society (ACS), Beta Beta Beta, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), Gamma Sigma Epsilon (GSE), leadership experience, summer REU, on-campus research (*outside of class requirements*), or internship program
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your class schedule and identify the best way to sequence your courses
- Meet with the Career and Internship Coordinator to discuss values, interests, personality traits, and skills and to develop an action plan
- Begin reading interesting books about your intended profession and/or speaking with current professionals- be sure to also read newspapers, magazines, and academic journals from your field (*highly recommended*) to stay abreast of current events, especially those related to science and technological advancement
- Maintain an excellent grade point average while taking a minimum of two science/math classes each semester
- Have resume reviewed by the FSC Career Center or the FSC Career and Internship Coordinator- *recommend attending Resumania in Spring hosted by the Career Center*

### Second Year Recommendations

- If not done during first year or if substantial changes were made, have resume reviewed by the FSC Career Center or the Career and Internship Coordinator - *recommend attending Resumania in Spring hosted by the Career Center*
- Beginning in Fall, search for summer programs (i.e. REUs, internships) and begin to apply in late Fall/early Spring
- Attend the Career & Internship Expo hosted by the Career Center (*available in Spring*)
- Attend the REU Workshop (*available in Fall and Spring*)
- Consider participating in a Spring Internship – see the Career and Internship Coordinator for more information
- Continue to gain additional extracurricular experiences, i.e. student organizations, leadership roles, athletic opportunities, undergraduate research, etc.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your class schedule and ensure you are on track for graduation
- Meet with the Career and Internship Coordinator to discuss action plan progress, summer programs, etc.
- Continue reading interesting books about your intended profession, speaking with current professionals, and reading newspapers, magazines, and academic journals
- Maintain an excellent grade point average while taking a minimum of two science/math classes each semester

### Summer between Second and Third Year Recommendations

- Participate in an extensive summer program such as an REU, on-campus research experience, internship, or in-depth volunteer program

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## Third Year Recommendations

- Attend the Graduate School Success Workshop hosted by the Career Center (*available Fall and Spring*)
- Attend the Gap Year Workshop hosted by the Career and Internship Coordinator (*available Fall*)
- Attend the Graduate School Fair hosted by the Career Center (*available in Fall*)
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your class schedule ensure you are on track for graduation
- Meet with the Career and Internship Coordinator to discuss action plan progress, summer programs, etc.
- Beginning in Fall, search for summer programs (i.e. REUs, internships) and begin to apply in late Fall/early Spring
- Consider participating in a Fall or Spring Internship –see the Career and Internship Coordinator for information
- Continue to gain additional extracurricular experiences, i.e. student organizations, leadership roles, athletic opportunities, undergraduate research, etc.
- Start researching graduate school programs and determine which specific programs you will apply to –consider the curriculum, faculty advisor/PI, your research interests, research opportunities, geographic area of program, tuition cost, assistantship opportunities, etc.
- Attend the Career & Internship Expo hosted by the Career Center (*available in Spring*)
- If required for your programs of interest, begin studying for the GRE and register for a test date
- Continue reading interesting books about your intended profession, speaking with current professionals, and reading newspapers, magazines, and academic journals
- Maintain an excellent grade point average while taking a minimum of two science/math classes each semester
- Begin writing your personal statement –start brainstorming in early Spring; start writing in Summer

## Summer between Third and Fourth Year Recommendations

- Participate in an extensive summer program such as an REU, internships, or in-depth volunteer program
- Finalize which graduate school programs you plan to apply to and have specific rationale for each decision
- If ready and needed, take the GRE
- Finish writing personal statement
- Review personal statement with the Career and Internship Coordinator or Faculty Advisor

## Fourth Year Recommendations

- If still needed or not done over summer, review your personal statement with the Career and Internship Coordinator or Faculty Advisor
- Attend the Graduate School Application Workshop hosted by the Career and Internship Coordinator (*available Fall*)
- Apply to graduate schools\*
- Attend the Interview Workshop hosted by the Career and Internship Coordinator (*available Fall*)
- Participate in a mock interview –*recommend “Moc” Interview Day in Fall hosted by the Career Center*
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your class schedule and ensure you will complete all degree requirements by the end of senior year

*\*Students are encouraged to meet with the Career and Internship Coordinator consistently throughout their undergraduate journey. Students who are not academically, emotionally, & mentally prepared and/or whose applications are not at a competitive level at this time may consider delaying their application for another year and taking a “Gap Year”. This will allow time for the student to improve their application before applying.*