Application Timeline

1. Search for a graduate program:
   - Ask experts: faculty and professionals in your field
   - Target specific programs and find application deadlines
   - Investigate when and where to take the GRE (www.ets.org)
   - Budget $300-400 for application & test fees

2. Make a list of potential schools and compare:
   - Reputation of the school, its programs and faculty
   - Research and scholarly opportunities
   - Program job placement rates and information
   - Financial aid
   - Location and cost of living

3. Visit schools:
   - Make appointments to meet with faculty and/or admissions office
   - Some schools may be able to pay your travel expenses
   - Gather information about community and housing options
   - Talk to other grad students

4. Three months/one semester before published application deadlines:
   - Take GRE and/or other standardized tests
   - Ask for letters of recommendation
   - Begin preparing application materials (forms, personal statement, transcripts)

5. One month before published deadlines:
   - Mail application and send transcripts

6. After the deadline, admissions committees evaluate your application based on:
   - Your personal statement
   - Letters of recommendation
   - Standardized test scores (GRE, etc.)
   - TOEFL (international students)
   - Grade point average
   - Transcripts and resume
   - Scholarly and research experience
   - Work and life experience