



SKIDMORE COLLEGE

CAREER SERVICES www.skidmore.edu/administration/career

815 North Broadway **P 518.580.5790**

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-1632 **F 518.580.5799**

Juniors, Avoid Senior *Crunch!*

Start Now to

Plan For Grad School

- Visit the Career Services Office site at www.skidmore.edu/administration/career/ to find the links referenced in this handout.
- Ask for a copy of our *Graduate School Guide* or visit our “Getting into Graduate School” webshop (see **Webshops** on the CSO homepage). Review the extensive **Graduate School** section of the CSO website, as well.
- Begin to identify programs of interest by speaking with your **faculty advisor** or another faculty member who knows your work well. Ask for strategic advice on selecting programs appropriate for your interests and skills, and finding prospective mentors.
- You can also use the *Peterson's Guides to Graduate and Professional Programs* or similar books to find lists of schools to review with your advisor. This resource is available in the CSO, and should also be available in many library reference sections). Or, search online with tools such as www.GradSchools.com.
- If you plan to pursue graduate work in an academic discipline (as opposed to a professional program, e.g., MBA, JD), **identify** faculty conducting research in your area(s) of interest. Review their research and begin reaching out to them to learn more about their graduate programs and to begin to determine who might make a strong mentor. This an excellent way to prioritize your list of programs, and will likely help you write a more persuasive personal statement.
- Request program catalogues, housing and **financial aid** information, and **applications** forms from schools of interest (or identify and bookmark online application pages). Contact department chairs or their representatives to learn about **Graduate or Teaching Assistantships**.
- **Visit** schools of interest and **meet with faculty and students**, if possible, to learn more about programs and facilities.
- Determine when you will be taking any **graduate admissions exams** and register for an appropriate test date (typically no later than October of senior year). Give yourself enough time to practice/study and have scores available in advance of application deadlines. Note that deadlines for Graduate Assistantships may be earlier than admissions deadlines. Most test registration booklets are available in the CSO or you can visit sites such as:

www.ets.org/choose.html (GRE, GMAT, PRAXIS)

www.lsat.org (LSAT)

www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm (MCAT)

www.MillerAnalogies.com (Miller Analogies)



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- **Prepare for admissions exams** by taking past tests and reviewing test preparation software (request free or inexpensive test prep materials from your particular testing body) or by taking a prep course. Visit www.kaptest.com/ or call 1-800-KAPTEST for information on local Kaplan branches. Review online test prep options at www.skidmore.edu/administration/career/gradtest.htm.
- Begin writing a draft version of your **personal statement**, which is part of most graduate school applications. Review *Graduate Admissions Essays* by Donald Asher, available in Career Services. Have your advisor, another trusted faculty member, the Writing Center, and/or a CSO counselor review your drafts.
- **Investigate major national scholarships and fellowships** (*for many, the application process begins junior year and concludes early October of senior year*). See www.skidmore.edu/administration/dean-studies/scholarship.htm and touch base with the **Dean of Studies Office**. Review various grant-related publications in Career Services and library reference sections. See also the **Financial Aid** link on the CSO homepage.
- Those interested in Health Professions or Law should **consult with the appropriate Skidmore faculty advisors** outside of Career Services.
- Speak with faculty to confirm whether they are willing/able to write you supportive **letters of recommendation** attesting to your performance in settings related to your academic interest(s). Provide the necessary materials as early in your timeline as possible to allow your letter writers to meet your deadlines in an hurried manner.
- **Please feel free to contact the Career Services staff** to discuss graduate school planning activities that relate to your individual situation. The office remains open to serve you through the summer months.