

## ***Section 5: Graduate School Application Timeline***

### Freshman-Sophomore year

- Strong GPA.
- Identify interests and faculty with similar interests.
- Participate in relevant on-campus extracurricular activities and organizations (e.g., Philosophy Club) and continue it throughout your undergraduate career.

### Fall of Junior Year

- Identify possible recommenders from faculty.
- Begin a research project for purposes of writing sample.

### Winter and Spring of Junior Year

- Build your CV by getting involved in undergraduate philosophy conferences. Having a paper accepted at a conference not only looks good on your CV but is also a good chance to practice your presentation skills plus you get to meet your peers. And/or, you might submit a paper or book review for publication in an undergraduate journal.
- Start taking GRE practice tests (Choose a test date and organize a study schedule).
- Begin researching schools, request materials and confer with faculty who will write letters of recommendation for you.

### Summer after Junior Year

- Finish up most of the application process: make a definitive list of schools to which you are going to apply and make a checklist of due dates, required materials, etc., for each application and draft and revise a personal statement and a writing sample.
- Research financial aid.
- Get in touch with potential recommenders and provide recommenders with application materials.

### Fall of Senior Year

- Finish up writing sample and statements of purpose.
- Take the GRE (by the time you take the GRE, you must have decided where you will apply so you can have the scores sent directly).
- Thank recommenders.
- Gather and send complete application materials out in November-January.

### Winter and Spring of Senior Year

- If successful, evaluate offers. Between February-April expect to receive official letters from all the schools applied to whether or not you are admitted. Upon receiving offers, you should consult your faculty advisors. There are many factors to consider (e.g., types and amount of funding being offered) in making this important decision.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>: This is the official deadline recognized by nearly all of the school you would want to attend. You must make a commitment to a school by that date. Notify the program whose offer you accept and also notify the others that you have accepted an offer elsewhere. Don't forget to notify the Philosophy Department here at Portland State University of your success.