

# SUGGESTED TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS

*Note: deadlines vary by program, this is a general guide only  
The earlier you start, the better!*

## **As early as possible:**

- Explore career options in Psychology to gain clarity on the different paths and determine your interests.
  - This will help you narrow down choices for graduate school programs.
  - The Career Development Center, your advisor, and books available in the main office can be great resources. Be sure to initiate these conversations with your professors during office hours.
- Consider joining Psych Club, Psi Chi, or other organizations at Fredonia. Attend department events.
  - Can help with networking, learning more about the field, and building relationships with other students and faculty.
- Consider volunteering in a faculty member's research lab to begin building a mentoring relationship and learning more about research

## **Junior Year:**

- Consider doing an Independent Study (PSY489).
  - Independent Study is **strongly** recommended for students who want to attend a doctoral program.
  - Helps build relationships with faculty members through work outside of the classroom.
    - These mentors make excellent letter of recommendation writers.
  - Narrow down your own research interests – look for a faculty member whose interests are similar to yours.
  - If possible, present your work at local or regional conferences (e.g., OSCAR at Fredonia).
  - Doctoral graduate programs like to see multiple semesters/years of research experience
- Consider an Internship in Psychology (PSY479) junior or senior year.
  - This allows you 'real world' experience and can help you gain clarity on what working in the field is like (can help narrow down or confirm career interests).
    - looks great on applications and helps you stand out from the other applicants
- Begin studying for the GRE if required (general).
  - Fredonia often offers a 1-credit GRE prep course in the Fall (INDS489). If this is available, consider taking it.

- There are many books and study guides for the GRE. Take as many practice tests as you can.

### **Summer Before Senior Year:**

- Begin narrowing down programs you want to apply to.
  - Graduate programs book available in the Psychology main office - describes programs and characteristics of typical entering classes (GPA, GRE scores, etc).
  - Look at program websites – check out faculty members you might be interested in working with (especially if it's a doctoral program). 'Fit' between you and the program/faculty is very important.
- Continue to study for the GRE General test. See if any schools require GRE Subject test; if so, study for this as well.

### **September:**

- Take the GRE. If you have schools picked out, have the scores sent to them.
  - If you don't like your score on the GRE, you have time to take it again.
- Start working on your personal statement.
  - Have faculty members read this over for you! We are here to help.
  - Should personalize these for each program.
- Start working on your CV.
  - The Career Development Center on campus can assist with this as well.
- Consider which faculty members you want to ask for letters. Typically, programs require 3 letters.

### **October:**

- If necessary, retake the GRE General and have scores sent to programs. If necessary, take the GRE Subject and have scores sent.
- Finalize your list of programs you're going to apply to.
- Finalize your materials (personal statement, CV, etc).
  - Note: check if any programs have additional requirements (e.g., a writing sample or additional essays).
- Have a conversation with faculty you'd like to ask for a letter of recommendation. Make sure they can write you a strong, positive letter.
  - Fill out the template/form (available in Psychology main office) for your letter writers.
  - You should consider giving them a copy of your personal statement and CV.

- The more organized you can be, the more it will help your letter writers. It should be clear what the schools' names are, what type of program it is, what the deadline is, and how letters are to be submitted (e.g., online form vs. snail mail).

**November/December:**

- Arrange for transcripts to be sent to your programs.
  - Often have to send from ALL undergraduate institutions – so if you're a transfer student, make sure you send ones from your previous school, too.
- Submit your applications.
- Verify that programs have received all the required materials.

[Application deadlines are typically around DECEMBER 15- MARCH 1)

**Early Spring:**

- Travel to interviews, if required.

**Mid Spring:**

- Receive decisions from schools.
  - For some programs, there may be financial aid, scholarship/assistantship offers.
- Make your decisions

**Late Spring:**

- Update your letter writers on outcomes – we love to hear back!