Things to consider during your FIRST YEAR

- **Become familiar with campus resources and services** to help you acclimate to college life.
  - The Department of Student Success & Retention has excellent resources to support your transition to college. Visit them at the back of Parker Library to find ways to access support services.

- **Visit your academic advisor** to discuss the Core, your Advising Worksheet, potential academic pathways, and options for coursework enrollment.
  - For help identifying your academic advisor, visit My.wesley.edu or visit the back of Parker Library and a member of the Department of Student Success & Retention will assist you.

- **Go to the Career and Advising Center** in Parker Library 14 for assistance in exploring your values, interests, and skills and how these may relate to your choice of a potential major/occupation.
  - You can access several resources online at http://wesley.edu/academics/department-of-student-success-and-retention and/or speak with team member Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

- **Begin a practice of attending faculty office hours** to gain strategies for maintaining a high GPA. Additionally, this will help strengthen relationships with faculty and begin cultivating potential graduate school references.

- **Explore options to participate in research** related to your field of interest.
  - The faculty and staff at Wesley offer support and guidance for undergraduates seeking research opportunities. Also, consider participating in Wesley’s Scholars Day to get experience conducting your own research with a faculty mentor. Visit http://wesley.edu/academics/scholars-day for more information.

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Things to consider during your Sophomore YEAR

- **Get involved in activities** (on or off campus) that relate to your values, interests, skills, or potential fields of interest.
  - SGA information

- **Choose a major** and check-in with your academic advisor to stay on-track with your advising worksheet. Both the Career Advising Coordinator and the Academic Advising Coordinator can assist you with choosing a major.

- Visit the Career Advising Center to explore graduate school/occupational options related to your interests and career goals.

- **Explore options for participating in experiential learning opportunities** related to your field(s) of interest, such as internships, co-ops, and job shadowing.

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Things to consider during your Junior YEAR

1st Semester

Attend the Career and Grad School Fair to learn about graduate programs and connect with college/university personnel from a variety of higher education institutions.

Research and identify graduate programs/schools you might be interested in attending. Consider length of program, cost, location, size of program, cultural fit, faculty research fit, alumni employment data, etc. Become familiar with the application requirements and deadlines for these schools. Most department webpages for graduate programs have data and information about these topics. You might also consider contacting department admissions representatives with specific questions.

Create an application action plan to assemble materials necessary for graduate school applications in accordance with application deadlines associated with your specific schools of interest. For assistance creating your plan, visit the Career Advising Coordinator.

Cultivate references for use in applications by creating and maintaining meaningful relationships with professors, mentors, faculty advisors, and supervisors.

Explore opportunities for taking leadership positions in organizations with which you are involved.

Apply for/participate in research opportunities related to your field of interest. You may consider developing your own research independently or participating in a faculty-led research initiative on-campus.
2nd Semester

Continue to apply for/participate in experiential learning opportunities related to your field(s) of interest.

Prepare for/take graduate school admissions examinations according to requirements for your programs of interest (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, GMAT, etc.). Keep in mind that each examination has different timelines for reporting results. You will want to make sure you give yourself enough time to prepare for the exam and for results to be reported to your desired schools by the application deadline.

Review faculty information at desired programs to identify research fit. It may be helpful to reach out to faculty you are interested in working with to inquire about specific projects and areas of interest for future research. Also consider contacting desired programs to speak with current graduate students about their experiences in the program. These contacts may also be on program websites.

Explore graduate school funding options including scholarships, financial aid, assistantships, tuition waivers, and external funding options. Schools and individual programs may have varied types of funding, so it is important to clarify what is available with the specific program/school to which you are applying. Below are some general funding resources:
US News “Paying for Graduate School” resource page: www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-graduate-schools/paying
Graduate/Professional School Student Aid information from the Federal Government: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/graduate-professional-funding-info.pdf

Begin crafting your personal statements and assembling other application materials required by your programs of interest. You can have these reviewed by the Career Advising Coordinator.

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Things to consider during your Senior YEAR

- **Attend the Career and Graduate School Fair** to obtain additional graduate school information and network with college/university personnel from your desired institutions.

- **Reach out to potential reference contacts** to ask if they will be willing to serve as your reference. Be sure to give references several weeks to craft and submit their references (do not wait until the last minute before the application deadline!); give them a copy of your résumé/CV and let them know the deadline by which the reference is needed.

- **If you have not already, take your graduate entrance examinations and have test scores sent to desired institutions.** Finish assembling application materials (test scores, personal statement, references, writing sample, résumé/CV, transcripts, etc.) and complete applications by the deadline.

- **Continue to participate in extracurricular and experiential learning activities** related to your field of interest.

- **Complete interviews or applications/interviews for financial support**
  - e.g. assistantships, fellowships, scholarships, if necessary according to the deadlines required by your programs of interest.

- **Review admission decisions and decide which program to attend.**
  - For help organizing your decision-making process, visit the Career Advising Coordinator.
AFTER RECEIVING YOUR DECISIONS...

If you were not admitted this time…
If you were not admitted, consider ways to improve your application for the next round. You may ask for feedback from admissions representatives or faculty within your desired programs. Consider steps you might take between now and your future applications to improve your chances of acceptance next time.

If you were admitted without funding…
If you were admitted without funding, consider alternate options for funding your graduate school experience. There may be external funding sources with available funds or other on-campus experiences that can offer you financial support. Speak with department representatives from your desired programs and the campus financial aid office to determine what options/resources might be available to help you.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES FOR APPLYING TO GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

General Graduate School Resources
- www.GradSchools.com
- www.Petersons.com
- National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator information tool: https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

Professional School
- Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) – www.lsac.org
- Association of American Medical Schools (Student/Applicant Information Pages) – https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/preparing-med-school/
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing Guide to Graduate Nursing Programs: http://www.aacnnursing.org/Students

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