The application process for graduate school is time consuming; make sure you start early to ensure success! Below is a general checklist; your process may vary depending on the specific programs to which you are applying.

EXPLORE
- Decide which type of graduate program and level of study (Graduate certificate, Masters, Doctoral degree) best suits your situation & goals
- Articulate clear reasons for continuing your studies in a more intense and specialized manner at this time
- Assess how a program will further your career & life goals
- Clarify your priorities:
  - Research & scholarly opportunities
  - Potential fit with professors’ interests and research
  - Quality of program
  - Reputation of school, programs and professors
  - Program job placement rate and information
  - Financial assistance & cost
  - Student Services
  - Cost of living
  - Alumni career paths and connections
  - Your ideal post-grad job location

RESEARCH
- Conduct thorough research & compare various programs
- Attend UVM’s Fall Grad School Fair
- Visit schools of particular interest & sit in on a class to assess school culture and program fit

PREPARE
- Review program requirements and make a plan to gain any necessary additional coursework
- Research what makes a strong candidate (some programs appreciate candidates with additional life or work experience)
- Plan your entrance exam strategy: select a preparation method (test prep books, review courses, self-study) & consider when you’ll actually take the exam

APPLY
- Note application deadlines and map out your timeline
- Ask professors & other potential recommenders if they would be willing to provide an excellent recommendation
- Draft your personal statement (seek feedback from the Writing Center, Career Center and trusted advisors)
- Review your transcript before sending it off with your application
- Research and apply for financial aid options

TIPS FOR EXPLORING YOUR FIELD
- Find academic &/or career mentors
- Conduct informational interviews
- Engage in relevant research
- Shadow professionals
- Seek out volunteer opportunities
- Intern in your industry

With experiences like these you’ll be ready to make solid decisions about grad school and be an even more competitive candidate!

FOR A DETAILED TIMELINE AND APPLICATION RESOURCES: