COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
GRADUATE SCHOOL TIMELINE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEAR

• Keep your GPA high (Consider taking a study skills course)
• University Honors students should get involved with the Honors Center’s events and activities
• Non-honors students with at least a 3.4 GPA after freshman year should apply to the Social Work Honors Program
• Join 1-2 student organizations
• Find a volunteer opportunity (find opportunities and create a volunteer transcript here: http://www.payitforward.osu.edu/)
• Get to know your professors (use their office hours) and regularly see your academic advisor
• Attend the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum in spring to view students’ projects
• Review social work faculty profiles and research interests to help focus your interests

JUNIOR YEAR

• Continue to earn good grades (3.0 GPA or higher) and your involvement with the Social Work Honors Program
• Consider enrolling in a course to help explore and clarify your educational and career interests
• Pursue an independent research project under the guidance of a social work faculty member
• Search and apply for a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) for the upcoming summer
• Continue being involved in student organizations and seek ways to increase your leadership within these organizations
• Get to know faculty members in your area of interests/research

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• Talk with faculty and advisors about graduate school options and conduct online searches of potential choices
• Begin studying for the GRE or other graduate admission exam (plan to take during the upcoming summer)

SENIOR YEAR

Summer before:
• Narrow your choices of graduate programs
• Gather all application materials, begin drafts of personal statements and consider who to ask for recommendations
• Take the GRE if required, or other graduate admission exam (take the exam early in case you need or want to retake the exam)
• Develop an application timeline based on the requirements of each program

September/October:
• Request your letters of recommendation
• Research sources of financial aid
• Polish your personal statements and ask someone to review and provide feedback

December/January:
• Submit applications, even if deadlines are later.
• Arrange for official transcripts to be sent to each program
• Honor Students are encouraged to apply to the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (check for deadline: http://denman.osu.edu/guidlines.aspx)

February
• Arrange to visit each program to which you have been admitted.

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April/May

• Make decisions about your program of choice and notify the programs of your acceptance or that you are declining
• BSSW Graduation!