

THE

# 7 MILE PLAN

# A ROAD MAP TO CONQUERING GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS



## REFLECT

Take some time to reflect. Is graduate school right for you right now?

**GOALS:** What are your goals? Does your field require an advanced degree?

**EXPERIENCE:** Have you completed an internship or worked in the field?

**COST:** Are you aware of the resources available to help pay for graduate school?

MILE 1



- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## RESEARCH

Do some searching to gather information about specific programs you might want to attend. Some things to consider:

- Prerequisites
- Accreditation
- Demographics
- Curriculum & course load
- Funding opportunities

Reach out and attend open houses with potential schools.

Visit and meet with students and faculty in the program

MILE 2



## PLAN

Fill out an application tracking sheet with deadlines for EACH program you plan on applying to.

We recommend planning for 2-3 "safe schools," 2-3 "intermediate schools," and 2-3 "aspirational schools."

Don't discredit your qualifications! Plan early for a successful and smooth application process.

MILE 3



## APPLY

Stay organized, know your deadlines and get all of your application materials together. For each school/program you will need:

- Resume or CV
- Transcripts from all institutions
- Testing scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal Statement

Make sure you give yourself enough time to compile materials! Remember to factor in waiting and transit times.

MILE 4



## EVALUATE

Once you receive admissions decisions, evaluate your options. Have you been accepted, wait listed or denied admittance? What do the funding opportunities look like?

Weigh out the pros and cons of attending each school. Rank schools according to categories of importance.

Take some time to reflect on where you want to spend the next 2-5 years.

MILE 5



## DECIDE

You will need to respond by accepting or declining the offer to most institutions by mid Spring.

Treat your decision as a contractual agreement, when you accept you are agreeing to tuition, living costs, time requirements, commitments and award offers.

If you have been waitlisted, is it worth waiting or can you respond to another offer?

MILE 6



## SUCCEED

You made it!

Whether you are entering graduate school, taking some time off or have decided to pursue a different path towards your professional development, you have made it through the application process.

Good luck in your endeavors!

MILE 7

STETSON UNIVERSITY