

Do I need a gap year?

Do I have a clear idea of what my next step should be?

Do I have enough experience to make this decision with confidence?

Am I on track to complete all applications on time? (See below)

If the answer is no to any of these, you may need a gap year.

Am I ready to apply to graduate school (especially PhD)?

I am well into at least one research project and/or will have substantial work completed by the end of SUM 13.

For BS/MS: By the end of the summer my PI will know me well and I will be well into my capstone project; I will be ready to discuss the BS/MS ap with my PI by September.

I have signed up to take the GRE early summer. (10/15 is the outside date.)

I have already researched PhD programs or have time this summer to do so thoroughly. (*Note:* while researching, set up a calendar of ap deadlines. Most fall between 12/1 and 1/1, but some fall outside of those dates.)

I have time this summer to draft my personal statement and revise my CV.

I have time this summer to research fellowships and scholarships.

I know whom I intend to ask for references.

I have already established relationships with the faculty I intend to ask for references. If not, I have ample time this summer to establish such a relationship before I ask for a reference. (*Note:* if the relationship is already there, you can ask for a reference this summer. If not, then Sept-Oct., not later.)

Am I ready to apply to medical school? (there will be differences for other clinical programs)

I have already taken the MCAT.

I have already completed a draft of my AMCAS personal statement and can revise it and get feedback in June.

I have already researched medical schools and identified the schools to which I plan to apply.

I have time to complete my AMCAS by July 4th.

I have time later in the summer to complete supplemental applications and turn them around promptly.

I have already begun preparing for medical school interviews by informing myself about the US healthcare system and its place in society. I have considerable time this summer to construct answers to interview questions and practice interviewing.

I have completed 40 hours of physician shadowing.

I have been involved in some extracurricular activities deeply enough that I have something interesting to say about them.

I have leadership and/or service (humanitarian) experience.

I know whom I intend to ask for references and I already have an established relationship with these people. (*Note:* you should ask by the end of the quarter.)

Am I ready to look for work?

I have an up-to-date resume.

I am signed up with Husky Jobs.

I have had an internship or will have one this summer. (This is the ideal scenario.)

I have researched the biomed/tech industry and know which industry segment I am targeting. I have a list of target companies.

I know what I do well and what interests me and can speak about it with confidence.

I have researched the biomed/tech industry and have matched my skills and interests to a segment of the industry.

<http://www.washingtonlifescience.com/career/career-opp.htm>

<http://www.xconomy.com/seattle/2011/12/23/the-year-in-seattle-medical-devices-diagnostics-health-it/>

<http://www.xconomy.com/seattle/2011/12/22/the-year-in-seattle-biotech-lots-of-acquisitions-few-new-startups/>

I have developed a target list of companies and looked at entry-level job postings for those companies.

I have an academic plan for my senior year to maximize my skills and experience so they relate to my companies of interest. (Note: add BIOEN 504 if time?)

I have made use of Career Center resources related to planning a job search, networking, and interviewing.

I have asked all of my academic and personal contacts for contacts in my target companies. (Don't forget the UW alumni Husky Career Network!

<http://www.washington.edu/alumni/careers/hcn/index.html>)

I have arranged for interview practice if I think I need it. (You do!)

If I haven't done the above, I can spend considerable time this summer doing it and catching up.

JOB SEARCH STARTS AUTUMN QUARTER!!!

Permanent positions, temporary positions, or internships can all be great first steps.