A COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR STEM RESEARCH

1ST YEAR

Summer Research Experience
Who: Undergraduates
Why: Participate in an in-depth research program
When: Summer, 8-10 weeks
Where: US and international institutions!
How: Apply through NSF, Amgen, The Leadership Alliance, or individual institutions!

Identify and initiate research
Search faculty or dept websites.
Go to office hours.
Cold-email faculty.
Think about what research excites you.

2ND YEAR

Pursue research talks and grants...
• On campus?
• Relevant conferences?
• External funding?
• Do your research and ask faculty or TA's!

Request for "strong" Letters of Rec
1. Who do you want to ask and why?
2. Don’t be afraid to ask
3. Ask early (6-8 weeks before deadline)
4. Ask for a "strong" letter
5. Send reminder email (1 month, 1 week, & 1 day before deadline)
6. Thank your letter writers!

3RD YEAR

Plan for your career
Think about different career paths, and whether research is for you. You may need letters of rec, extensive applications, or test prep for the GRE, MCAT and LSAT.

Apply for National Scholarships
These prestigious competitions provide financial support, but can also open up doors to a variety of academic, career, and research opportunities. Talk to your campus fellowship advisors and scholarship representatives to apply!

4TH YEAR

1. Complete grad school and fellowship applications
2. Consider taking gap years, jobs in industry, research assistant jobs.

Celebrate and Relax!

Are you an undergraduate interested in pursuing research as a profession? Then this timeline is for you to make the most out of your time in college!

Special thanks to Holly V. Matter, Callie R. Chappell, Xiaojian Zhao, Nick Alward-Saxon for contributing to my experience and knowledge.

November, 2020

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