6. GETTING IN

Exhibit 1.1
The “Typical” Timetable

SEPTEMBER
_____ Apply in the first week of September (or earlier) to take the GREs in October and to take the next scheduled MAT. Begin studying for them on a regular basis, and take practice exams to estimate what your score may be.
_____ Read chapters 2 through 5 of this book.
_____ Photocopy or modify the worksheet summarizing your qualifications and requirements.
_____ Find out what programs exist by carefully studying Graduate Study in Psychology and related catalogs.
_____ Complete a preliminary list of programs that offer the area of concentration, degree, and training you seek.
_____ Using the worksheets provided in chapter 5, compare your qualifications with admission requirements.
_____ Contact those programs that seem a good match to obtain additional information about the program and about financial aid. Ask for an application packet. Study this information carefully.
_____ Submit a request for your undergraduate transcript, which you will include in your packet for those who will eventually write letters of recommendation.

OCTOBER
_____ Using the strategy outlined and worksheets provided in chapter 5, complete a final list of programs that you will apply to. If you can afford it and it seems worthwhile, visit the campuses of programs that interest you most or that raise the most questions for you.
_____ Call the financial aid offices of all of the schools you will be applying to. Ask for an information packet about the aid available to graduate students, as well as any forms you will need to complete to be considered for financial aid.
_____ Take the GREs and the MAT; request scores to be sent to all of the schools you will apply to.
_____ Read chapter 6 of this book. Plan and schedule your application strategy. Pay careful attention to application deadlines, particularly with regard to financial aid, which often has earlier deadlines than the admissions application.
_____ Record goals for each week that remain before your applications must be submitted.
_____ Calculate application fees and make sure you have enough money to cover them. (Some schools waive this fee because of financial hardship; this needs to be checked with each school.)
_____ Begin planning how you will obtain the money for any pre-selection interviews you may be required to attend.
_____ Begin contacting professors, other psychologists, and other individuals from whom you might want to request letters of recommendation.
NOVEMBER

_____ Request that your undergraduate transcript(s) be sent to all of the institutions you are applying to. Make sure your transcripts will be sent by your earliest application deadline.

_____ Prepare a resume to be used in your packet for those who will write your letters of recommendation.

_____ Finalize your decision regarding which professors to ask to write letters of recommendation, and recontact them to request letters.

_____ Begin thinking about the various essay questions each school requires. Allow time for your ideas to germinate. Write first drafts of essays.

_____ Begin filling out your financial aid and application forms.

_____ Supply individuals who will write your letters of recommendation with the packet you prepared earlier (see chapter 6).

DECEMBER

_____ Get feedback and write the final drafts of essays.

_____ Finalize financial aid forms.

_____ Finalize application forms.

_____ Carefully prepare each application for mailing. Be sure to photocopy each in its entirety. Consider registered mail if you can afford it.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

_____ Read chapter 7.

_____ Begin to prepare for possible pre-selection interviews (see chapter 7).

_____ Contact professors whom you have asked to submit letters of recommendation. Confirm that they were sent out and thank those who sent them.

_____ Follow up to conform that your applications are complete.

_____ Attend any pre-selection interviews you are invited to.

MARCH

_____ Follow the procedures outlined in chapter 7 for accepting and declining offers.

_____ If you are not accepted by any of the schools of your choice, consider the options outlined in chapter 7.

APRIL

_____ Finalize your financial arrangements for attending graduate school.

_____ Call or write the people who wrote your letters of recommendation and inform them of the outcome.

_____ Celebrate (or regroup).