January
• Send grade report*

February
• Visit campuses *

February-March
• News Item*

March
• Continuing interest letter*

April 15
• Send final decision *

*Grade Report
“My fall grades came in rather strong”
List classes, grades, and fall GPA

*Campus Visits
“I am a self supporting student and wanted to ask for some funding for airfare.

*News Item
“I just came to visit your campus and I like it for the following reasons. Also, my paper was just accepted to a journal.”

*Continuing Interest Letter
“I have begun to hear from other programs, but haven’t heard anything from you. Your program is the best fit and I am eager to hear good news from you. I would not like to be forced to make a decision before I know where I stand with you

*April 15- Final Decision
I have received a significant amount of funding from another school. However, I believe you are the better fit. What can we do?

Concerns about GRE score:
“Please see that my GPA in the sciences, my strong recommendations, and my BD3-REAP research project are better indicators of the kind of work I will be doing in graduate school. The GRE is a broad test and the verbose was archaic and irrelevant to the data science field.”

Do’s & Do Not’s for Writing Statements:
Dos:
• Graduate level language
• Write with Confidence- “Upon completing a graduate program...”
• Be interesting

Don’t:
• Do not talk about your childhood
• Don’t talk about a death in family (Catalyst model is OK, but don’t drag on visually)
• State you are interested in training development, and mentorship, NOT JUST PhD!
• Do not take our adversity, just keep it small
• Don’t denigrate school, neighborhood, faculty members

Additional Tips:
• Never self-select out
• Apply to more schools
• Continue to fix personal statement
• Email more faculty
• Stop beating yourself about GRE
• Believe in yourself! 😊