* A Guide to Graduate Schools in Psychology

A Helpful Step-by-Step Guide to Assist You in Graduate School Applications
So you think that you’re interested in pursuing a career in Psychology? Here are some things to consider....

* Think about the specific areas of Psychology that you are interested in: Cognitive? Social? Personality? Developmental?
* Consider taking classes that help you explore these areas (Such as Psych 20, 40, 60)
* Consider getting involved in the community in areas related to psychology such as internships or volunteering
* Make an effort to get to know Psychology faculty, connections with professors will help you get letters of recommendation in the future

* Consider doing Psych 194, Advanced Research, in which you assist a Professor or grad student with their research

* This is an opportunity both to connect with faculty and see whether or not you have an interest in research

* Go to the Psychology Department (Room 273 in SS2) to make sure you’re on track
* Consider choosing upper division classes that match your areas of interest (ex. Interested in counseling? Take Clinical Psychology)

* Consider getting community experience by taking Psych 193 (Field Study), which will allow you to intern in a community placement

* Think about what kind of graduate program you’re interested in...Masters in Counseling? Masters in Social Work? Ph.D? Psy.D?

* Are you confused as to the differences in degrees?

* Later in this powerpoint, there’s information about the differences in degrees
* Consider whether or not the timing is right for you to apply to grad school

* Consider whether you want to go straight into a program or take time off, consider how competitive of an applicant you are

* Some questions to ask yourself: How is your GPA? Do you think you’ll be able to get good letters of recommendation? Do you have relevant experience (research, experience working in the community, etc.)

* If unsure, consider waiting a year to apply and use your senior year to build connections with faculty and acquire relevant experience

**Senior Year**
* Feeling ready to apply? Here are the steps:
* First, make sure you thoroughly research each program you’re interested in. Do they have specific requirements such as prerequisites, tests you need to take, etc.?
* Most programs will require the GRE, a test similar to the SAT, but for grad school
* Summer before senior year, consider taking the GRE. You will have more time to prepare for it than you would during the school year
* Most programs will require personal statements. Make sure you are familiar with each program’s deadline and give yourself time to write and edit it
* Reach out to the teachers who you want letters of recommendation from early, you should give them at least a month to write the letters
Make sure you know exactly what each application requires from you. Most programs will require:

* Basic Personal Information
* Your Transcript
* GRE scores
* Personal Statement
* Letters of Recommendation (typically 2-3)
* Most applications are due between November and January
* Many schools will require interviews, which typically happen around February to March
* The time acceptances come out will vary widely by school and program, but most should let you know between March and June (if you’re applying for the fall semester)
Congratulations! You got in!

If you were accepted to multiple programs, here are some things to consider when making your decision:

- What is the coursework like? Is it a good fit with your interests/career goals?
- Where do you see yourself living? In grad school, you will make community connections that will make it easier to get a job in the surrounding area.
- What is the cost? Do they offer financial aid/scholarships? In state vs. out of state tuition? Private vs. public school?
- If unsure, reach out to admission representatives who can help answer your questions.

Choosing between schools
* Confused on the differences between various degrees in Psychology? Here’s a basic guide to different programs....

* Comparing various Psychology Degrees
* Marriage and Family Therapist vs. Licensed Clinical Social Worker masters degrees
* Both typically 2-3 years
* Both involve supervised internships in community placements
* MFT training focuses on marriage counseling, family counseling, group therapy, individual counseling
* LCSW training is community focused, involving social work counseling, administrative procedures, case management, child welfare laws, family services, and mediation
* MFTs work in hospitals, treatment facilities, substance abuse treatment centers, universities, or can set up their own private practice

* LCSWs work in hospitals, nursing homes, health services agencies, government agencies, substance abuse clinics, public, private, or non-profit organizations, research, administration, policy-making, or public planning

* Greater demand for LCSWs and more diversity in terms of kinds of jobs available
* Prepares students to become School Counselors
* Typically 2-3 years
* Coursework focuses on teaching how to advocate for students and work with teachers, parents, and organizations to promote the academic, career, personal, and social development of children and youth
* Help students evaluate their abilities, interests, talents and personalities to develop realistic academic and career goals
* Work in K-12 public or private schools, public and private universities
* Prepares students to be clinical psychologists
* Typically takes less time to complete than a Ph.D program (between 4-7 years)
* Focused on practicing therapy, rather than careers in academia, such as research or teaching
* Involves training in a variety of areas such as supervision and consultation, advanced treatment and assessment, and clinical counseling
* Must complete supervised practicum and internship in a clinical setting
* Must pass licensure exam
* Work in private practice, community mental health centers, public or private outpatient clinics, hospitals, universities

*Psy.D in Psychology*
* Prepares student to become clinical psychologists
* Longest of all graduate programs in psychology, 5-7 years
* More generous in funding than Masters or Psy.D programs
* Provides intensive clinical training as well as research experience and preparation to teach at a university
* Involves supervised practicum and clinical internship as well as research
* Must pass licensure exam
* Want more information?
* Visit the UCSC Career Center, located in Room 305 in the Bay Tree Building, for specialized graduate school and career counseling (Hours M-F 8am-5pm)
* Check out the Career Center Website for information about graduate school fairs and online job and graduate school resources ([http://careers.ucsc.edu/index.html](http://careers.ucsc.edu/index.html))
* For help writing personal statements, visit the Writing Center’s drop in hours (For info about hours, visit the Learning Support Services webpage)
* Join the UCSC Career Advice Network (CAN) to connect with knowledgeable professionals in various fields (Visit [http://www.careercenter.ucsc.edu/can/index.cfm](http://www.careercenter.ucsc.edu/can/index.cfm))

*On Campus Resources*