

Criteria for Admitting Graduate Students To Formal Degree Programs in Psychology

Degree Students

Each student who applies has a file compiled in the Graduate office that must consist of all of the following before it is sent to the Psychology Department for review: A) Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The department prefers students with a total verbal plus quantitative score of 1000. The criterion is flexible, however, depending on GPA or other consideration. The GRE Subject Test in Psychology is not required for entrance into the graduate program, but students are encouraged to take this test. B) Official transcripts of all college work. The department then calculates a cumulative GPA and a psychology GPA. An average grade of B or 3.0 GPA is the preferred standard. C) Letters of recommendation from at least two (2) persons cognizant of both the applicant and the field of Psychology. D) A letter-of-intent from the applicant describing the goals and purposes for which the graduate program is being undertaken. E) The Graduate Division Application Form.

Undergraduate course background must include 15-20 credits of Psychology with course work in psychological statistics and a research or laboratory course. Students applying for applied programs (clinical and school) should have a course in Abnormal Psychology. School program applicants must have course work in the area of Learning. A course in History and Systems of Psychology is strongly recommended for all applicants.

Each graduate application is reviewed and either accepted or rejected by a vote of the entire faculty of the department. Sometimes an applicant is accepted on a “conditional” basis with a remediation plan specified. Typically this would include better than minimal grades in the first semester and/or completion of required undergraduate courses. Students admitted conditionally are not eligible for an assistantship until conditional status is removed.

Admission decisions are made with compensatory use of the above criteria where strengths balance weaknesses. The department attempts to look at the person as a whole when considering applicants and their potential for successful completion of a degree and entry into a career in psychology.

The department can accept 25 students per year. Ten (10) school, ten (10) clinical, and five (5) general.

Non-Degree Students

A potential student may apply for non-degree status and if the application is approved may then enroll in courses and (if successful) receive graduate transcript credit. The student must decide no later than the completion of nine (9) credit hours if they then wish to become degree candidates. Non-degree credits may or may not be counted on a graduate degree program. Completion of non-degree credits carries no implication or guarantee with respect to subsequent admission to a degree program. Non-degree students are not required to have GRE scores and are not considered by the Department to be graduate students in psychology until they have taken GRE's and have been officially admitted by the department into a degree program.

Admission as a non-degree student is relatively open at the discretion of the Graduate Dean. An application form and official transcript are required. Non-degree students are not allowed to enroll in certain graduate psychology courses (P840, P855).