



Graduate Programs in Psychology

Courtesy of Dr. Michael Anziano
and Dr. R. Eric Landrum

Today's slides available online from:
http://faculty.fortlewis.edu/burke_b/



JOB HUNTING IS TOO HARD



GRAD SCHOOL IT IS



Take the Grad School Quiz

How much do you know about grad schools in psychology?



GRAD SCHOOL!

THE BOARD GAME



FUN FOR ALL AGES!

MEET WITH THE SIB COMMITTEE GO BACK 3 YEARS

UNDERGRAD SENIOR SKIP 1 YEAR

GRAB A BOWL OF SOUP

FREE FOODS GET OUT TUBS AND DANCE HALL

PAYDAY! PAY BILLS AND STUDENT LOANS

EXPERIMENT SHALL WE - GET A 10 FOR EFFICIENCY

ADVISOR LOSES FUNDING! GO BACK TO START OR OUT

CHECK BACK FOR A TUB

WRITE PAPER LOSE 1 YEAR OF PRODUCTIVITY

GO TO LAB

QUALS! YOU'LL DIE - HIT ALL AND YOU ENDS!

FROM A WINDOW CLAND TO CHOOSE THESE TOPIC

When does it end??

GO!

NOWHERE

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Grad School in Psych

How hard is it to get in?

Medical School Acceptance Rate (%)?



US Medical School Acceptance Rates (2010-2012)

MCAT	24-26	24-26	24-26	27-29	27-29	27-29	30-32	30-32	30-32
GPA	3.20-3.39	3.40-3.59	3.60-3.79	3.20-3.39	3.40-3.59	3.60-3.79	3.20-3.39	3.40-3.59	3.60-3.79
Asian	9.1%	13.1%	18.3%	16.1%	28.1%	43.1%	30.3%	48.0%	69.9%
White	12.2%	17.8%	24.0%	22.7%	34.1%	49.8%	39.1%	54.2%	72.7%
Hispanic	36.9%	52.1%	58.1%	51.7%	68.0%	77.0%	65.4%	80.6%	86.6%
Black	65.4%	76.0%	81.2%	81.6%	84.0%	94.1%	87.2%	93.2%	89.9%
ALL	20.3%	25.4%	26.7%	29.2%	37.3%	51.3%	39.7%	54.7%	72.9%

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges

Psych Grad School Admission Data (APA, 2010)



Table 1 | Average Acceptance Rates in Master's and Doctoral Psychology Programs (% of students who apply and are accepted to a particular program)

Area	Master's	Doctoral
Clinical Psychology	37%	(table 2)
Clinical Neuropsychology	---	26% ^a
Cognitive Psychology	40%	16%
Community Psychology	61%	24%
Counseling Psychology	63%	30%
Developmental Psychology	44%	20%
Educational Psychology	57% ^a	48%
Experimental Psychology	39%	15%
Health Psychology	41%	16%
Industrial/Organizational Psychology	52%	27%
Neuroscience	32% ^a	15%
Quantitative Psychology	78%	36%
School Psychology	34%	31%
Social & Personality Psychology	39%	12%

Sources: American Psychological Association. (2010). *Graduate Applications, Acceptances, Enrollments, and Degrees Awarded to Master's- and Doctoral-Level Students in U.S. and Canadian Graduate Departments of Psychology: 2008-2009*.

^aData taken from Norcross, J. C., Kohout, J. L., & Wicherski, M. (2005). Graduate study in psychology: 1971 to 2004. *American Psychologist*, 60, 959-975.

Psych Grad School Admission Data (APA, 2010)

Table 2 | Average Acceptance Rates and Financial Assistance by Type of APA-Accredited Program in Clinical Psychology

	Free-standing PsyD	University-based PsyD	Practice-oriented PhD	Equal-emphasis PhD	Research-oriented PhD
% of applicants accepted	50%	35%	16%	14%	7%
% of incoming students given					
tuition waiver only	0%	1%	7%	3%	0%
assistantship only	13%	22%	57%	20%	8%
waiver and assistantship	1%	12%	42%	54%	89%

Source: Norcross, J. C., Ellis, J. L., & Sayette, M. A. (2010). Getting in and getting money: A comparative analysis of admission standards, acceptance rates, and financial assistance across the research-practice continuum in clinical psychology programs. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology, 4*, 90-104.

Figure 1 | Getting In: Average Acceptance Rates

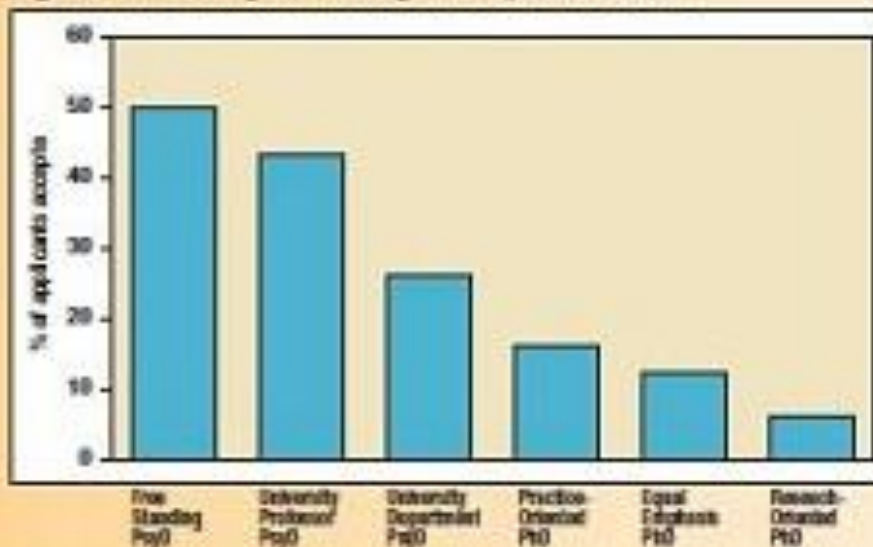
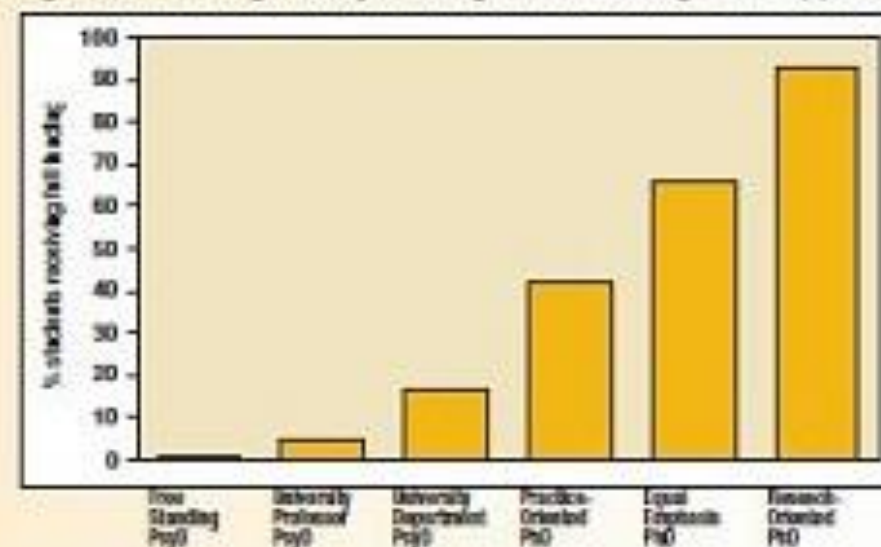


Figure 2 | Getting Money: Average % Receiving Full Support

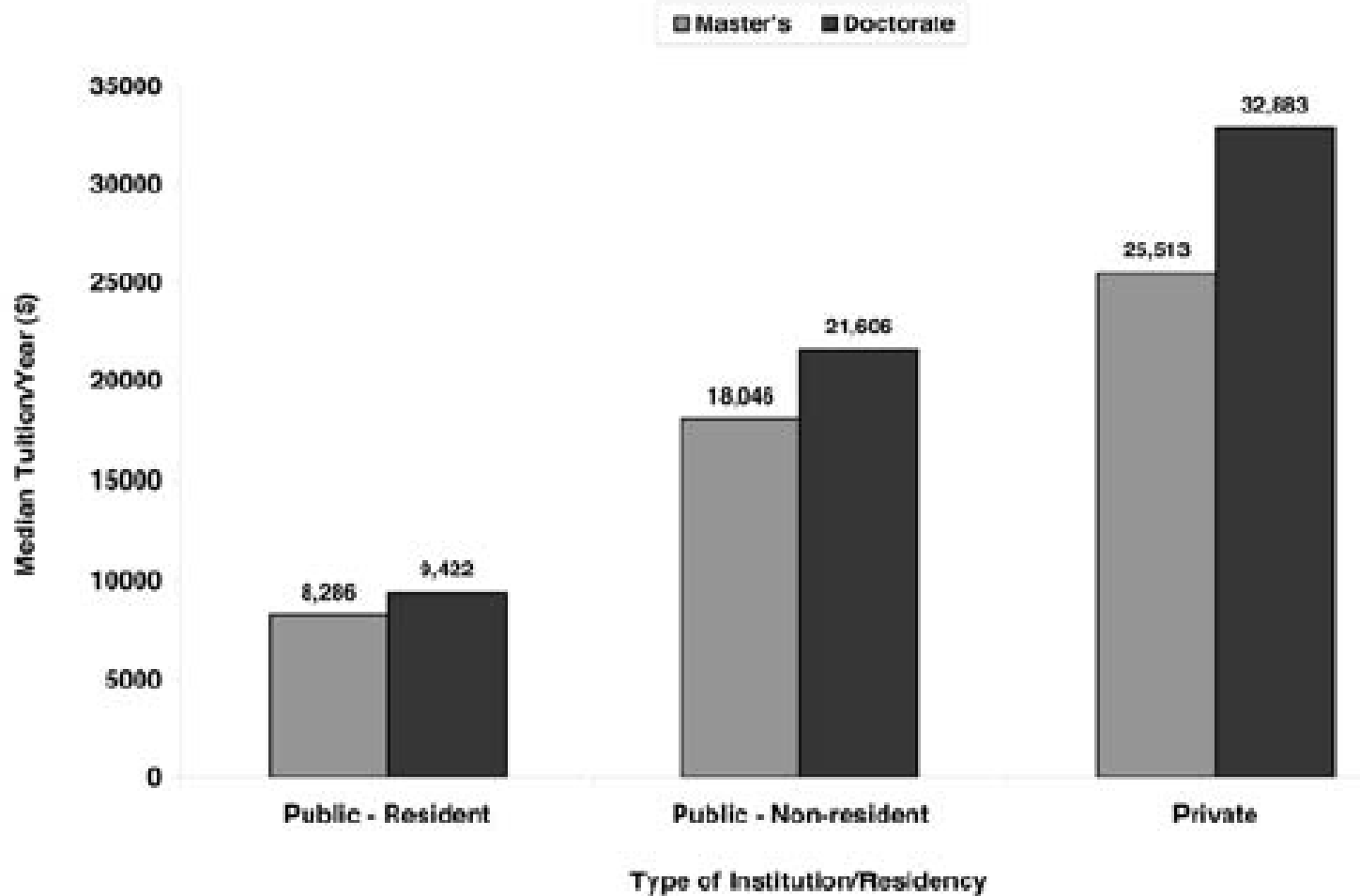




Grad School in Psych

How much money are we talking?

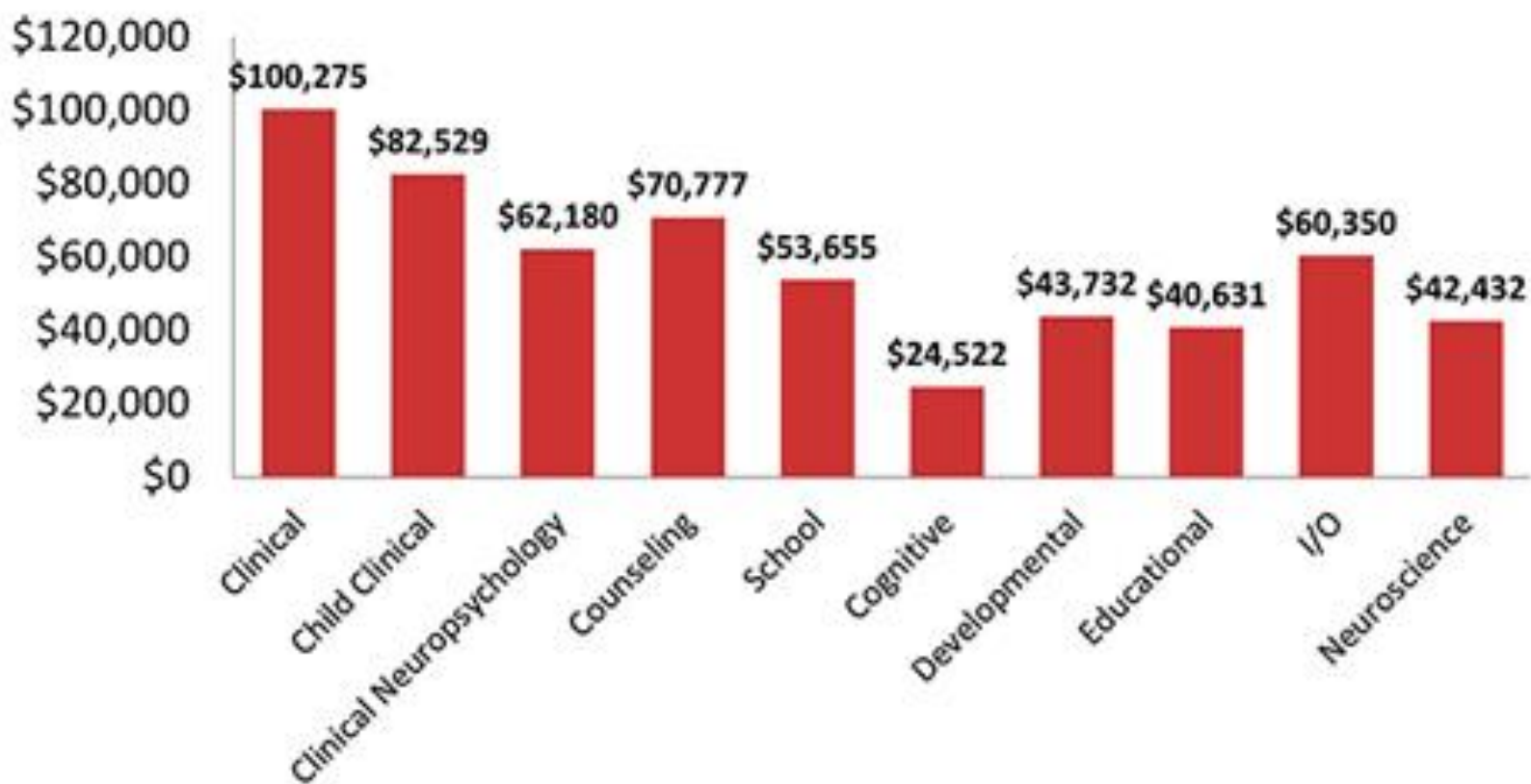
**Figure 8. Median Tuition by Type of Institution/
Residency: 2011–2012**



Source: *Graduate Study in Psychology, 2014 Edition* data. Prepared by the APA Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training.



Debt Related to Graduate Education by Specific Subfields for Recent Doctorates in Psychology





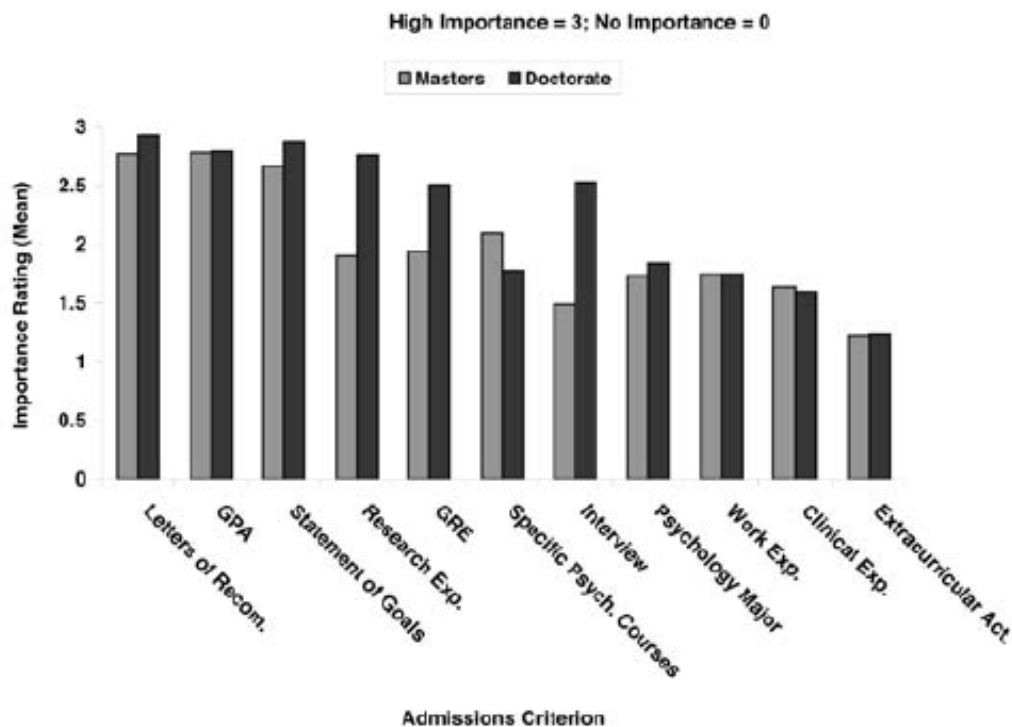
Grad School in Psych

How can YOU get in?

Graduate Admissions Criteria

- ◆ Top 3 predictors of graduate school admission:
 - GRE (general test, not psych) – take math & comp!
 - GPA (typically 3.0+)
 - Letters of Recommendation

Figure 6. Mean Rating of Importance of Various Admissions Criteria



More recently, these have been added to the list:

- Research experience (especially for PhD programs!)
- Autobiographical statement / “cover letter”

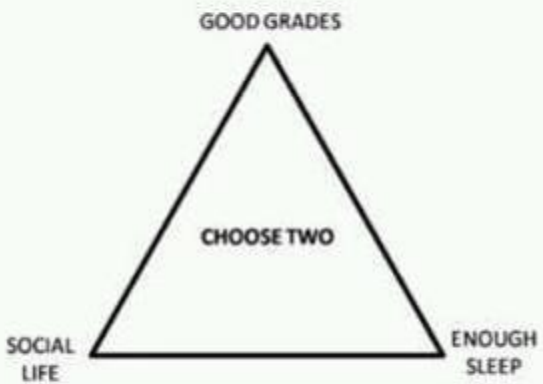


Good news, Bad news

- ◆ Bad news first: Clinical Psych PhD university programs are extremely hard to get into! (2 FLC students in my 12+ years)
- ◆ Good news: You have other options...

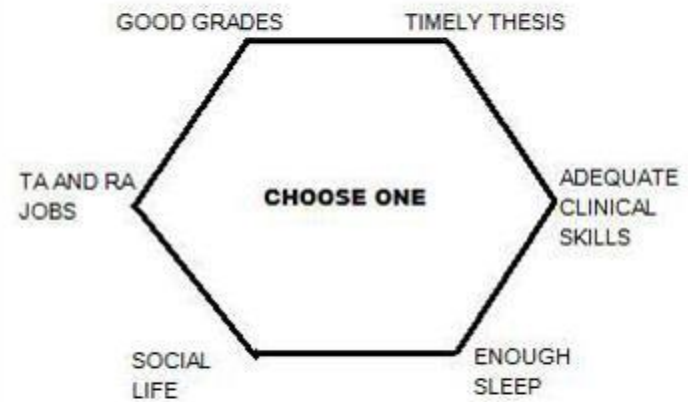
First, the bad news...





COLLEGE

You only can choose two



GRAD SCHOOL

Pick one and expect to fail at it




Ph.D. Programs in Psychology

- ◆ Admission most competitive –
especially Clinical Psych PhD programs
- ◆ Very small cohorts admitted - e.g., 6 –15 new students each year in University Programs
- ◆ **More research-oriented in all Ph.D. areas.**
 - “expected to contribute to growth of knowledge”
- ◆ Many non-clinical areas of specialization:
 - Social, Experimental, Developmental, Neuroscience, Ethology, Educational, Cognitive, etc. – e.g.:
 - UNCO, Ed Psych PhD 6/10 admitted
 - UC-Boulder, Social Psych PhD 4/102 admitted
 - Denver U, Cog Neuroscience 9/40 admitted
- ◆ Median # of years to complete = 6



Ph.D. Programs in Psychology

- ◆ **Research experience** weighted heavily in admission decisions.
- ◆ Target **INDIVIDUAL PROFESSORS!**
- ◆ GRE scores very important too
- ◆ Tuition varies, but Financial aid often excellent (i.e., TA/RA paid positions)
- ◆ Some Professional Grad Schools also offer APA accredited Ph.D. programs, e.g.:
- ◆ Alliant University (\$60K+)
 - Forensic Psych PhD: 28/39 admitted
 - Clinical Psych PhD: 39/104 admitted



Ph.D. Programs in Clinical Psychology (APA accredited)

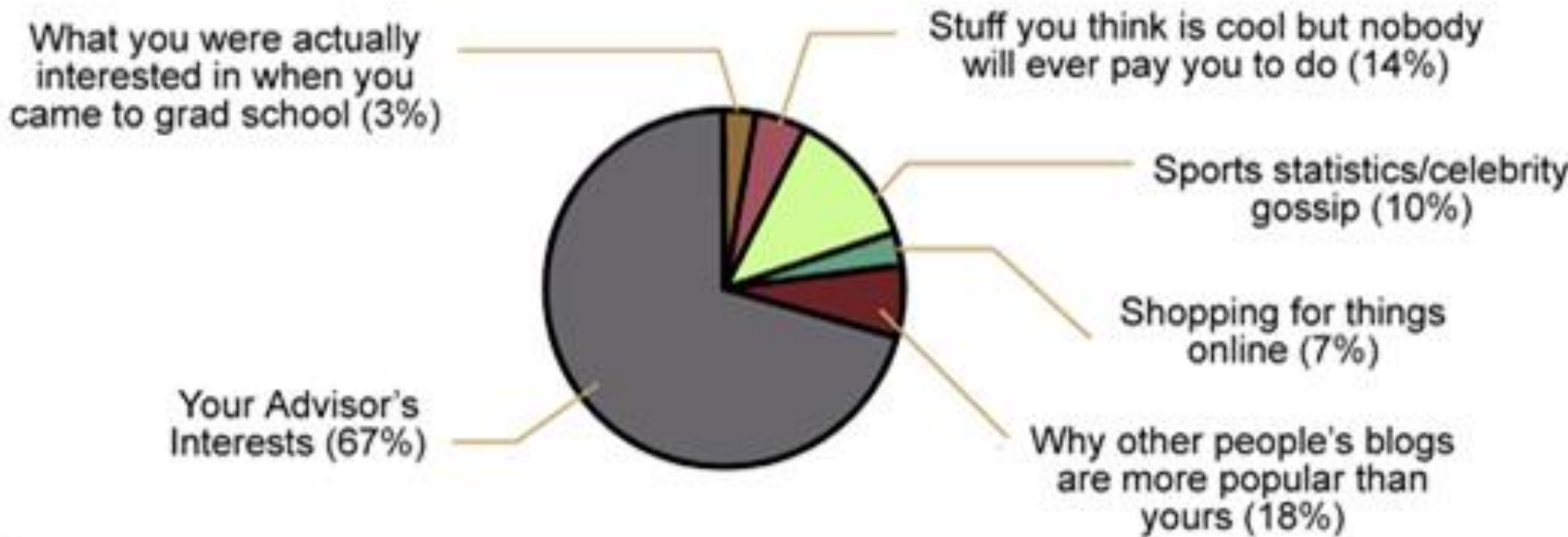
<u>Program</u>	<u>GRE V,Q</u>	<u>Acceptance Rate</u>	<u>Tuition \$</u>	<u>Aid \$</u>
Idaho State Univ.	580; 680	12 / 73	Low	Excellent
CU-Boulder	615; 695	6 / 199	Low	Good
Univ. of Washington	560; 660	5 / 136	Med	Excellent
Univ. of Montana	620; 620	13 / 118	Med	Excellent
CU-Denver Clinical Health	590; 680	6 / 70	Med	Excellent

Ph.D. Programs in Counseling Psychology



<u>Program</u>	<u>GRE V; Q</u>	<u>Accept. Rate</u>	<u>Tuition \$</u>	<u>Aid \$</u>
C.S.U. Fort Collins	650; 650	14 / 147	Low	Good
Univ. of Denver	575; 615	12 / 85	High	Good
U.C. Santa Barb.	550; 550	16 / 180	Med	Good
Florida St. Univ.	550; 550	8 / 45	Med	Fair
Univ. of Indiana	530; 625	9 / 107	Med	Excellent
Univ. of Kentucky	3.37 GPA	11 / 21	Med	Excellent

Your Research Interests:





PsyD Programs

- ◆ Admission fairly competitive
- ◆ Clinical experience very important
- ◆ Takes 4 –5 years to complete
- ◆ Usually offered in Schools of Professional Psychology
- ◆ Less research oriented – more applied / practice
- ◆ Prepares one for work in clinics, hospitals, private practice and state licensure. Involves assessment, clinical skills, and treatment of psychological problems.
- ◆ Internships required 2nd/3rd year



PsyD Programs

- ◆ Some programs offer **specialty areas** – for example:
 - Clinical Psy D
 - Forensic Psy D or Psy D / JD combo
 - Clinical Neuropsychology Psy D
 - Health Psychology Psy D
 - Ecosystemic Child Clinical (Alliant U)
- ◆ **Larger class size admitted - examples:**
- ◆ 42/120 admitted
- ◆ 117/184 admitted
- ◆ 71/159 admitted



PsyD: DRAWBACKS

- ◆ EXPENSIVE !! Tuition high / Financial aid low
- ◆ Students often older
- ◆ Median GRE: 575 for Verbal and Quantitative

PsyD. Programs (APA accredited)

<u>Program</u>	<u>GRE V,Q</u>	<u>Acceptance Rate</u>	Tuition \$	Aid \$
Pepperdine Univ.	568; 620	31 / 162	Med	Fair
Univ. of Denver	No minimum	72 / 394	High	Fair
Alliant Univ. (Calif)	not req.	20 / 27	High	Poor
Pacific U. (Oregon)	530; 570	62 / 115	Med	Good
Wright St. Univ (Ohio)	510; 540	32 / 174	Med	Good
American Prof. Sch.	not req.	106 / 192	Med	Poor



Now for the good news...



GOOD NEWS

The Doctor found your problem



Other Graduate Degrees in Clinical and Counseling Psychology

- ◆ M.Ed. in Counseling (Education Masters)
- ◆ MA or MS in Counseling Psychology
- ◆ MA in Clinical Psychology
- ◆ MSW (Masters in Social Work)
- ◆ MFT (Marriage & Family)

**IF WE CALL PEOPLE WITH
DOCTORATE DEGREES DOCTOR**

**THEN SHOULDN'T WE CALL THOSE
WITH A MASTERS DEGREE
MASTER?**



Psychology Master's Programs

- ◆ Admission is less competitive
 - Mean GPA typically around 3.00
 - Median GRE usually 500 Verbal; 540 Q (500 is the average GRE score)
- ◆ Completion Time: Median is 2 years
- ◆ Types of Programs:
 - General Psyc MA
 - Psyc Research or Doctoral Prep MA/MS
 - Clinical MA some with MFT emphasis
 - Counseling Psyc MA
 - Forensic Psyc MA (Univ. of Denver)



Psychology Master's Programs

- ◆ More students accepted – larger cohorts (e.g., 20-40 students may be admitted each year)
- ◆ Internships usually required for Clinical or Counseling Psychology MA
- ◆ Univ. counseling services / community
- ◆ Off-campus clinic / Therapeutic setting
- ◆ Can be a route to acceptance in PhD Program
 - e.g., In 2003, 8/12 Ph.D. candidates in Counseling Psychology at Denver Univ. came from the MA Program at D.U.!

MA Programs: 2012 examples

	<u>GRE: V; Q</u>	<u>Acc. Rate</u>
UC-Boulder	499; 610	20/39
Clinical Psyc MA		
Denver Univ.	490; 570	32/125
Counseling Psyc MA		
Denver Univ.	no min.	44/87
Forensic Psyc MA		
Univ N. Colo	435; 515	31/37
School Psyc EdS		



MSW Programs

- ◆ Admission competitive, but requirements vary
- ◆ Preparation for working with youth, families, agencies, community organizations, government
- ◆ Careers in Dept. of Social Services, Community Mental Health Centers, Child Welfare Agencies, Social Policy and Community Organization
- ◆ Takes 2 – 3 years to complete
- ◆ [Helpful WEBSITE](#)

Having a master's degree does not mean that I will have a job. It just means that I am smarter than you.






MSW Programs

- ◆ Many programs consist of: Foundation Year and Concentration Year. Typical concentrations:
- ◆ Clinical Practice: social work counseling with couples, families. Child welfare issues, High-Risk youth, adult health/ subs.abuse
- ◆ Community Practice: Organization and Policy issues, social change, community leadership, agency reform
- ◆ GPA: approximately 3.0 minimum
- ◆ GRE not required for some programs (e.g., DU)

Local Options

- 
- ◆ Denver University – MSW (see Dr. Wrona)
 - ◆ COST ~\$60 K TOTAL (with possible 50% scholarship for Natives)
 - ◆ Adams State MA in Counseling (clinical or school track)
 - ◆ COST ~\$20 K TOTAL
 - ◆ NM Highlands at San Juan College
(Social Work, School Counseling, Rehab Counseling)
 - ◆ COST ~\$20 K TOTAL
 - ◆ **BOTTOM LINE:** If you are a serious student, you **WILL** get in somewhere if you are flexible & planful!!!

Getting started...

I highly recommend graduate school as a way to avoid the real world for 2 to 5 additional years.



- ◆ To start looking at which grad schools might be right for you, visit the Psychology Dept Library and/or the Reed Library and browse the current “Graduate Study in Psychology” book carefully!
- ◆ [APA website](#): A great resource!
- ◆ You can also buy online access to APA’s graduate study in psychology information



So you're thinking about graduate school in psychology?

DOCTORAL VS. MASTERS

- <1% of FLC Psych students have completed a doctoral degree (PhD)
- PsyD programs in professional schools (not universities) are pricey (>\$100 K) and of varied quality!
- Masters can be route of access to doctoral degree in future...

MASTERS: Counseling vs. Research

- Do you want to work with people directly doing counseling?
- Do you want to be a researcher or instructor of psychology?

MASTERS IN PSYCHOLOGY (Direct Service)

- Lots of choices!
- Vast majority of solid students (e.g., ~3.0 GPA) get in somewhere
- Counseling, Clinical, School, Community, Forensic, MFT

OR

Masters in Social Work (MSW)

- Prepares you for similar careers as Masters in Counseling
- Vast majority of solid students (e.g., ~3.0 GPA) get in somewhere
- Also focused on agency work/ social welfare

MASTERS IN PSYCHOLOGY (Research Focus)

- Social
- Cognitive
- Physiological
- Developmental