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!

UNDERGRAD MINION
SKIP 1 YEAR

FREE FOOD
BY OIL, DYE, AND
GASOLINE

ACADEMIC

PAYDAY!
PAY BILLS
AND STUDENT
LOANS

EXPERIMENT
FAIL OR SUCCEED
AGAINST A?

ADVISOR
LOSES FUNDING!
GO BACK TO START
OR QUIT

RESEARCH
LOSE A YEAR

QUALS!
ROLL ONE, A 2
AND YOU PASS

ACADEMIC

meet with
committee to
check your
paper

write a
thesis

roll the dice

GO TO
LAB

when does it end??

www.phdcomics.com

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Jorge Cham
Grad School in Psych

How hard is it to get in?
Medical School Acceptance Rate (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCAT</th>
<th>24-26</th>
<th>24-26</th>
<th>24-26</th>
<th>27-29</th>
<th>27-29</th>
<th>27-29</th>
<th>30-32</th>
<th>30-32</th>
<th>30-32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges
Table 1 | Average Acceptance Rates in Master’s and Doctoral Psychology Programs (% of students who apply and are accepted to a particular program)

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

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

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


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

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

- Clinical: $100,275
- Child Clinical: $82,529
- Clinical Neuropsychology: $62,180
- Counseling: $70,777
- School: $53,655
- Cognitive: $24,522
- Developmental: $43,732
- Educational: $40,631
- I/O: $60,350
- Neuroscience: $42,432

Source: (1) Doctoral Employment Survey 2009, APA
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

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>GRE V,Q</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Tuition $</th>
<th>Aid $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idaho State Univ.</td>
<td>580; 680</td>
<td>12 / 73</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU-Boulder</td>
<td>615; 695</td>
<td>6 / 199</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of Washington</td>
<td>560; 660</td>
<td>5 / 136</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of Montana</td>
<td>620; 620</td>
<td>13 / 118</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU-Denver Clinical Health</td>
<td>590; 680</td>
<td>6 / 70</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Ph.D. Programs in Counseling Psychology

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

- **Tuition $**: Low, High, Med
- **Aid**: Good, Fair, Excellent
Your Research Interests:

- What you were actually interested in when you came to grad school (3%)
- Stuff you think is cool but nobody will ever pay you to do (14%)
- Sports statistics/celebrity gossip (10%)
- Shopping for things online (7%)
- Why other people’s blogs are more popular than yours (18%)

Your Advisor’s Interests (67%)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>GRE V,Q</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Tuition $</th>
<th>Aid $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pepperdine Univ.</td>
<td>568; 620</td>
<td>31 / 162</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of Denver</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>72 / 394</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliant Univ. (Calif)</td>
<td>not req.</td>
<td>20 / 27</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific U. (Oregon)</td>
<td>530; 570</td>
<td>62 / 115</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright St. Univ (Ohio)</td>
<td>510; 540</td>
<td>32 / 174</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Prof. Sch.</td>
<td>not req.</td>
<td>106 / 192</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now for the good news...
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

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

- 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 PSYCHOLOGY
(Research Focus)

- Social
- Cognitive
- Physiological
- Developmental

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