

Tips & Tools for Applying to Graduate School

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Personal Statement/CV workshop

- Wednesday, October 19th
- Parker 203
- Information and exercises for preparing a personal statement and CV (academic resume).

Graduate Psychology Degrees

- What is a Ph.D.?
 - Clinical vs. Experimental
- Psy.D
- Masters degree (M.A., M.S.)
 - Counseling programs
 - General vs. Experimental
 - Other programs

Questions to Ask Before Applying to Graduate School

- www.apa.org/gradpsych/2011/09/applier.aspx
 - What kind of job do you eventually want?
 - How much debt can you reasonably take on?
 - For Ph.D. programs, who would you work with?
 - What kind of funding is there?
 - For clinical/counseling:
 - What is the added value of selecting an APA-accredited program?
 - What are the internship match rates of the graduate programs you are interested in?
 - What are your potential programs' EPPP pass rates?
 - Who are the school's top researchers?

Know the Programs Before Applying

- Sources of information:
 - Faculty members
 - APA (or other national organization) for clinical programs
 - <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/gradstudy/index.aspx>
 - <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/index.aspx>
 - <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/about/program-choice.aspx>
 - The specific departments and programs
- What do programs look for?
 - <http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2007/11/cover-gradprograms.aspx>
- When to Apply?
 - Know the specific deadlines for each program.
 - <http://apa.org/gradpsych/2007/11/cover-route.aspx>

Application Materials

- Test Scores
 - GRE
 - Other required tests?
- Official Transcripts – minimum GPA
- Contact faculty you are interested in working with
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Professors who are familiar with your academic work and research (and work) experience.
 - A professor that knows you!
 - Professionals related to field you are applying for
 - Give notice and be organized!



Application Materials

- **Personal Statement**
 - Gives the selection committee a view of how you regard yourself in relation to the program.
 - Why are you interested? Your motives? Your influences? Goals? Your research interests?
 - For Ph.D. programs and some Psy.D programs be sure to tailor your statement to specific faculty and the program
 - Have someone your trust read it over, e.g. one of your personal recommenders...

Application Materials

- Experience
 - Evidence of quality research experience is a must.
 - Suggests you have an interest and motivation to seek out something beyond the minimal requirements of coursework.
 - Practical experience in mental health work
 - Aides in hospitals
 - Paraprofessional
 - Case Manager
 - CV
 - Career Development office
 - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/641/1/>
 - <https://grad.ucla.edu/asis/agep/advcv.pdf>
 - <http://www.socialpsychology.org/vitatips.htm>
 - www.apa.org/gradpsych/2003/09/cv.aspx

Application “Don’ts”

(Stambor)

- www.apa.org/gradpsych/2006/01/applicati.asp
X
 - Writing a damaging personal statement
 - Obtaining harmful letters of recommendation
 - Lack information about the program
 - Fail to communicate clearly
 - Overdoing attempts to impress