Applying to Clinical Psychology Programs
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Adapted from a presentation by Jennifer Felder

The Application Process
- Transcript
- GREs (General and Psychology)
- CV
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Mulah

Transcripts
- ORDER EARLY; Confirm receipt!
- Grades
  - 3.4+ for most doctoral programs
  - Look at disclosure data
  - What if your GPA isn’t your strength?

GREs
- Graduate Record Examination, General
- Get a book and practice practice practice
- Take the ETS electronic PowerPrep exams
- Graduate Record Examination, Psychology
- Required by most programs
- Study with Intro to Psych textbook

Curriculum Vitae
- Longer than a resume, but keep it to 2 pages
- Don’t include information about high school
- Provide information about:
  - Education, relevant coursework
  - Awards
  - RELEVANT
  - Research work
  - Clinical work
  - Teaching experience
  - Assessment experience
  - Publications

Recommendation
- Most programs require 3
- Ask potential writers “can you write me a favorable letter of recommendation?”
- Ask as early as possible, send frequent reminders.
Personal Statement
- Don’t say you’re a “good listener.”
- Avoid TMI
- Start early
- Ask professors, mentors, friends, grad students to read it
- Tailor it for each program

Things to Consider
- MATCH
  - Your mentor
  - The school
  - Program dynamics
  - Resources
  - The location

Your Mentor
- Apply to faculty member rather than school
- Find out whether the faculty member of interest is taking new students
- Talk to potential mentors’ grad students

The School
- Look for a good match
  - Look at disclosure data
  - Disclosure Data CU Clinical Program
  - What is the focus of the program?
    - Clinical vs. Research
  - What type of career do graduates typically pursue?

Program Dynamics
- Ask grad students about:
  - Their balance of work and life
  - Dynamics within the lab to which you are applying. Do people get along?
  - Do students in the program get along?
  - Living on the stipend

Resources
- Look for a good match. For example,
  - You want to research a specific clinical population? Do these patients live near the school?
  - You want to do fMRI research? Does the school have a scanner?
  - What lab facilities and funding does your potential mentor have?
Location

- You’ll live there for at least 5 years. Make sure it’s an area you’d like to live.
- Consider affordability.

Miscellaneous Tips

- Consider taking time off after graduating college to get more research and clinical experience, focus your research interests, and network.
- What is the difference between a PsyD and a PhD?

PhD vs. PsyD (Norcross et al., 2004)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scholar/professionals</th>
<th>Scientist-practitioner or clinical scientist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emphasis on both research/practice (varies by program)</td>
<td>Focus on clinical service/less research</td>
<td>University dept./university-affiliate school/free standing psychology school</td>
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<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>3.4 times more students than PsyD programs</td>
<td>3-4 times more students than PhD programs</td>
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<td>Practice oriented programs: 17% acceptance</td>
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<td>11% acceptance</td>
<td>20% get full financial assistance (4% - 38%)</td>
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<td>Equal emphasis: 57% fully funded</td>
<td>$53-$60,000 debt</td>
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<td>Research-oriented: 84% fully funded</td>
<td>5.1 years</td>
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<td>17% acceptance</td>
<td>74% matched</td>
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