

## Graduate School Application Process Tips

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## When to Start Looking at Schools

- For all doctoral programs: ASAP
- No later than the summer (preferably Spring) before you actually apply
- You will apply one full year ahead of entering semester
- Masters level usually at least 4-6 months ahead

## Deadlines

- Most all doctoral programs have a Jan or Feb deadline, some even in December so must find out and apply early.
- GRE
- Letters of Reference (3)
- Personal Statement
- Vita
  - What is it
  - How to fill it up

## Costs

- Remember most PhD programs offer a full ride (tuition remission (both in-state and out of state and stipend))
- Many Masters level programs offer some sort of assistance but you must ask and apply

## Grades

- Doctoral Programs: very competitive usually 3.2 or higher
- Masters Programs: Slightly less competitive usually 2.5 or higher.

- Need to figure out what programs you plan on applying for.
- Clinical: then what area?
- Experimental: what area?
- Need to look up faculty in each dept who you would like to work with.

## Selecting a Program

- If your interested in Circadian rhythm research, the dept better have someone doing that research.
- Experimental psychology: EP, Cognitive Neuroscience and timing
  - Not all faculty members get a new graduate student each year. Need to find out if the person you are wanting to work with is actually taking students that year.
  - Read the faculty members published articles

## Graduate Study in Psychology, 2014 Edition

Book - \$28.95 from APA's Website: [www.apa.org/gradstudy/](http://www.apa.org/gradstudy/)

Online - \$19.95 for 3 month access at: [www.apa.org/gradstudy/](http://www.apa.org/gradstudy/)

How do I choose a program?

- Ask us, most of us love talking about our alma mater or area of research and love to hear students interested in going to doctoral level.

- Remember this is like applying for a job. A faculty member is going to choose someone that will work with them. So what makes you stand out form the other 200 or so applicants?
- Must make sure they are taking students that year too.

## Where to choose and how many

- My best answer is choose 6-9 schools.. Two that are dream schools (very competitive) a couple that you think you have a good chance of getting in and a few schools you really think you have a good chance of getting into. Bottom line make sure you're a good fit with that dept.
- If you limit yourself to a certain geographical are you will probably have problems getting in.

## Letters of reference

- Need 3
- Must be from people who know you better than just from a class.
- For doctoral reference letters I usually write a 2-3 page glowing review about their academic performance, lab and research activities, involvement in extracurricular activites, etc.

- Be sure to complete an application and complete and sign the reference forms before giving them to us.

**General Recommendation Form for Graduate Admission**  
The Graduate School  
1100 East University Street  
Valdosta, Georgia 31698  
Phone: 229.333.3336 • Toll free: 800.616.1878 option 1 • Fax: 229.343.3833  
www.valdosta.edu/gradstudy • gradstudy@valdosta.edu

**INSTRUCTIONS:**  
Application - Complete Part A (two below). Include your signature and address the form to your recommender. Be sure to include a telephone. Self-addressed envelopes for your recommender to use for submission.  
Recommender - Complete Parts B and C of this form. Please return this recommendation form with letter attached. It is an important request for the school. Student recommendations may be used for the applicant for standing with other admission institutions or directly to the VSD Graduate School.  
The Graduate School, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia, 31698-0000

**PART A - TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT**

Name of your institution

SCHOOL	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	OTHER NAME
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

NAME OF RECOMMENDER  
FIRST NAME  
MIDDLE NAME  
LAST NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY  
STATE  
ZIP CODE  
PHONE NUMBER  
E-MAIL ADDRESS  
SIGNATURE OF RECOMMENDER  
TITLE

Public Law 93-380, Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, grants students the right to have access to information in their education files, unless the right to such access has been waived by the student below. Recommendations letters received by the Graduate School without the signature of the applicant will be considered as confidential and secure material.  
I have read this form.  Do not waive my right to see this recommendation.

VSU Grad Info

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/>

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/our-programs/psychology.php>

## Provide a ref letter packet to each professor containing:

- Envelopes typed with addresses for each school
- Each schools required forms and fill out all information possible and SIGNED BY YOU
- Instructions on what they need to do for each school (i.e., seal and sign flap, return to me/mail to school, etc.)
- Deadlines

## So how do I get a great letter

1. Do well in class, attend and show interest
2. Work with one of us in our lab
3. Go to conferences
4. Join psych club, psi chi

## Personal Statements

- Don'ts:
  - Altruistic Personal Statements
  - Excessive Self-Disclosure
    - "One applicant described, in excruciating detail, his yearlong struggle with painful hemorrhoids."
  - Nonspecific Research Goals
    - "Statements like 'I'm open to any area of research' or 'I love all of Biology' are statements that show no focus on a specific area."
    - \*\*\*\*Do not state that you do not like doing research
  - Professional Inappropriateness
    - "One applicant noted on his application under 'prior employment,' that he had performed (i.e., acted) in pornographic movies . . . this was not well received by the department in consideration for his acceptance in the graduate program."
    - From a psych applicant:
      - "I am a gifted therapist naturally. God has given me natural talents that make me a very good clinician. This was recently demonstrated when I helped my devil-worshipping brother go on the right path—God's path."

## GRE Costs

### Fees for the GRE® revised General Test and Related Services

Fees are stated in U.S. dollars and are in effect as of July 1, 2013.

Standard Test Administration	
GRE® revised General Test — worldwide	\$185

- GRE: \$185
- GRE scores sent (\$15 each)
- Application fees (around \$25-50 per school)
- Flying/driving to interviews (cost depends)
- Transcripts sent from each school
  - (VSU: There is no charge for regular processing of as many as 5 transcripts. Each transcript after 5 will cost \$2 per copy.)

## Interviews

- If you make the cut you will be asked to interview.
- Most schools will NOT pay for your trip out there. They will provide lodging though.
- Be prepared to ask questions, pull articles of faculty you may want to work with.

## Stats

- Go to each schools website and look for admission data.
- Many schools have similar charts to the ones i'm going to show you here



**OSU Clinical Program**  
America's Brightest **ORANGE**

**Table 1.**

	Application Cycle Year						
	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Number of applicants	112	77	137	152	155	157	167
Number offered admission	8	9	13	13	9	9	14
Number matriculated	4	4	8	8	6	7	9
Number of incoming students receiving an assistantship that includes full waiver of tuition	4	4	8	8	6	7	9

<http://psychology.okstate.edu/graduate-programs/clinical-psychology-program>

**OSU Clinical Program**  
America's Brightest **ORANGE**

**Table 2.**

The following table summarizes the academic qualifications for students admitted to the Clinical Program. Keep in mind that typically students admitted to our program also have research experience as an undergraduate, or have some graduate school experience.

	Application Cycle Year						
	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
<b>GRE Verbal</b>							
Mean	547	528	536	491	151	157	158
Median	575	530	560	470	151	157	158
Percentile	77%	63%	73%	49%	49%	73%	78%
<b>GRE Quantitative</b>							
Mean	652	643	655	624	147	155	154
Median	670	650	690	640	148	155	156
Percentile	52%	48%	60%	48%	43%	64%	56%
<b>GRE Writing</b>							
Mean	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4	4.4	4.5
Median	4.5	4.8	4	4.3	4	4	4.5
Percentile	75%	80%	48%	55%	48%	48%	80%
<b>Undergraduate GPA</b>							
Mean	3.56	3.26	3.85	3.61	3.57	3.57	3.63

**UGA Clinical Program Data**

**Admissions Data**

	Year of Admission						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of applicants	210	243	284	190	274	220	254
Number offered admission	16	9	10	9	16	15	9
Number matriculated	9	7	7	5	4	9	3
Number of incoming students receiving an assistantship that includes a full waiver of tuition	9	7	7	5	4	9	3

**Scores for Admitted Students**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>GRE Verbal</b>							
Mean	606	623	632	608	657	162	160
Median	585	620	665	600	650	162	161
<b>GRE Quantitative</b>							
Mean	666	669	728	719	742	157	159
Median	670	700	740	740	740	157	158
Undergraduate GPA Mean	3.77	3.71	3.74	3.64	3.71	3.70	3.76

<http://psychology.uga.edu/graduate/programs/clinical/>

**Texas Tech Clinical program**  
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/>

**Applicant Information: 2007-2013**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of Applicants	138	151	124	140	143	126	113
Number Accepted for Admission	8	11	7	10	8	8	9
Number Actually Admitted	7	6	5	6	6	6	8
% offered financial aid in 1 <sup>st</sup> year	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Department of Psychological Sciences

**Texas Tech Clinical program**

**Incoming Student Qualifications: GREs**

Year Admitted:	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
GRE Verbal (Mean)	536	548	534	545	592	550	156
GRE Verbal (Median)	560	550	530	555	600	570	157
GRE Quantitative (Mean)	594	632	628	613	625	660	152
GRE Quantitative (Median)	580	630	630	635	635	665	152
GRE Analytical (Mean)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GRE Analytical (Median)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GRE Writing (Mean)	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.5	4	4
GRE Writing (Median)	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.5	4	4
GRE Advanced (Psychology)	We do not require the GRE Advanced (Psychology) for admission into our Clinical Program						

\*Reporting new GRE Scores

**Incoming Student Qualifications: GPAs**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Undergraduate GPA (Mean)	3.75	3.74	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.79	3.84
Graduate GPA (Mean)	3.92	3.8	N/A	3.79	4	3.96	3.8

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Department of Psychological Sciences

**How NOT to get into Graduate School**

Kisses of Death in the Graduate School Application Process

This complete list and other guides are on the PSYCH CLUB website:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/psychology-and-counseling/psychology-club/>

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Psychology Club  
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Valdosta, GA 39884  
Phone: 229-333-0508

WELCOME TO OUR SITE!  
Club for any report  
This organization is meant to increase your knowledge and experience with the field of psychology.