Program Admission Requirements

The number of openings in our graduate programs is small compared to the number of applicants. Historically, we have only been able to accept high quality applicants whose interests and needs fit our program. Minimum requirements are specified to define the potential range of the student body in our programs. However, it would be unusual for a person with minimum qualifications to be admitted. Students in our programs typically exceed the minimal standards. Obviously, many individuals with excellent qualifications cannot be admitted because of the limited number of openings.

Admission Committee, Coordinator, and Graduate Dean.

The Clinical Program Committee serves as an admissions committee, and includes an Admissions Coordinator who is designated by the DCT. The admissions committee makes recommendations to the Graduate Dean regarding admission, conditions, probation status, and waiving of requirements. The Graduate Dean makes graduate admission decisions.

Minimum Requirements for Admission with Full Standing.

A student may be recommended for admission in full standing if, in the judgment of the committee, the student has demonstrated strong qualifications in all areas. To apply for admission, applicants must possess:

1. A Bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by a recognized regional accrediting body.
2. An undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
3. Graduate Record Examination. No minimum score is specified, but we scrutinize these scores closely.
4. Eighteen hours of credit in psychology courses or in courses that are primarily psychological in nature or in a closely related field. Applicants must have taken:
a) Abnormal psychology and a course in statistics, tests and measurements, or experimental psychology.
b) Recommended courses include developmental psychology, learning, social psychology, personality, cognitive psychology, physiological psychology, history of psychology, and general psychology.

5. Three satisfactory letters of recommendation. Notably, students currently enrolled in our Master’s program may apply for admission to the Doctoral program. Such students are encouraged to apply only after they have completed their first year in the Master’s program.

Admission with Conditions.

Deficiencies. Under certain circumstances and with the approval of the admissions committee, a student may be admitted with deficiencies in background courses. Such deficiencies must be remediated during the first two years of enrollment in the program.

To remove an admission deficiency, the student may take a course pertaining to the deficiency, and receive a grade of "C" or better. Alternatively, the student may pass a proficiency examination pertaining to the content of the course. A proficiency examination must be taken from a Psychology faculty member. Prior to taking a proficiency examination, the student must petition the Clinical Program Committee for approval to do so. No faculty member is obligated to offer a proficiency examination.

Other Conditions. A student who at the time of application is completing pre-requisites for admission can, with the approval of the admissions committee, be recommended for conditional admission. To satisfy the conditions of admission, the student must successfully complete necessary psychology courses or submit an official transcript showing that a Bachelor's degree has been awarded. Upon satisfying specified conditions, students may enroll in the graduate program.

Admission on Probation.
Under some circumstances, with the recommendation of the admissions committee, the Graduate Dean may admit a student on probation. Usual reasons for admission on probation might include, among others, (a) a grade point average below 3.0, (b) a highly variable record, (c) references only from non-psychologists. A student admitted on probation must maintain a 3.0 grade point average for the first 9 credit hours of graduate course work to remove the probation and to continue in the program, as per the Graduate School guidelines.