So you're wondering...

Which Psychology Graduate Program is Right for Me?

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REAL QUESTION:

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?
How About Clinical Work?

• Hospitals
• Clinics
• Private practice
• Nonprofits

• Possible Degrees:
  • Psychiatrist (M.D.)
  • Clinical/Counseling Psychologist (Ph.D., Psy.D.)
  • Social Worker (M.S.W.)
  • Marriage and Family Therapy (M.F.T.)
  • Nursing (psychiatric R.N.)
  • Child Life Specialist
  • M.P.H. (sometimes)
How About A Researcher?

- University & hospital settings (includes clinical research)
- Public/non-profit/government institutions
- Private sector (e.g., marketing research)

Possible Degrees:
- Psychiatrist (M.D.)
- Ph.D. in Psychology, Public Health, or Social Work
- Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)
- Doctorate of Public Health (Dr.Ph.)
- Sometimes master’s level dependent on position (e.g., study coordinator or research associate positions - M.A./M.S. in psychology, M.P.H.)
How About Education?

• K-12 Schools
• Universities
• Community Colleges

• **Possible Degrees:**
  • School Psychologist: Ph.D., Ed.D
  • Psychologist (Ph.D.)
  • Sometimes: M.S./M.A./M.Ed.
Efficient in terms of **time** & **money** investment
  - Sometimes leads to **the same career**

**Practice Degrees**
- M.S.W. *preferred degree in most clinical settings, flexible, transportable*
- Counseling- M.F.T., school psychology
- Licensure exams
- Specialties: Clinical Practice management, Child Life Specialist, etc.

**Research Degrees**
- Master’s in psychology (M.A.)
  - Neuropsych testing
  - Research skills
- Specialties: IRB issues, Clinical Trials oversight, Project management, etc.
If you’re sure you want your Ph.D. in Psychology

• **Experimental Psychology (Ph.D)**
  • Research/Academic careers

• **Clinical/Counseling Psychology**
  • Clinical Ph.D.
    • Clinical Scientist vs Scientist-Practitioner
  • Counseling Ph.D
  • Licensure exams
  • Psy.D.
    • Pay attention to cost...

• Don’t need your master’s
PREPARING TO APPLY!

• What schools offer the degree I want?
• What schools offer the specialization I want, and/or have faculty with whom I want to work?
  • Match is key!
  • Are faculty taking students?
• What does it take to get in?
  • Research
  • Clinical experience
  • How can I improve my qualifications?

Schools I like

?!!

Schools that will accept me
Identifying Schools

- Internet Search
- Professional Associations websites
- American Psychological Association of Grad Students (APAGS)
- Advising services at CSUDH/student clubs
- Ask the faculty!
- PsycINFO, PubMed (look at the literature to find faculty with your interests!)
- Avoid “for-profit” and online degree programs (may have difficulty with employment after all your hard work!)
# IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Job Outcomes</th>
<th>Money</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will I learn what I want to for my career?</td>
<td>Do students become employed upon graduation?</td>
<td>Working a separate job is not feasible during doctoral work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on curriculum, practicum (clinical training, if applicable), and other opportunities is on program websites</td>
<td>Info MIGHT be on program websites</td>
<td>You can get PAID to go to school- 20 hrs/wk research or teaching assistantship, tuition waver, health insurance... etc.</td>
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Expenses

Remember, if you are going to school “full time” then you should expect to be completed with your degree in 2-3 years for a master’s degree (versus 4-7 for doctoral...).

For a practice-based degree that will culminate in licensure, this is the best bang for your buck!

Loma Linda- “Most students in the department utilize federal (e.g., Stafford) and/or private loans to fund the majority of costs associated with graduate school.”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPECTED COST OF ATTENDANCE: PHD</th>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR OF PROGRAM</td>
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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>Fees</td>
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<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
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... versus USC

Graduate Funding Opportunities

Students admitted into the PhD program are provided with a graduate support package for a five-year period. Each student receives an annual stipend of $34,000, 36 units of tuition paid per year, and year-round health and dental insurance. The graduate support package typically provides two years of fellowship to allow students to focus full-time on their coursework, and three years of funding as a teaching or research assistant where they develop additional professional skills. In rare cases, our faculty may fund students with a research assistantship support package that includes two years of research assistantship and three years of teaching assistantship.

https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!