The Grad School Application Process

Diversifying Clinical Psychology Weekend
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Fall, 2017

Contributors: Dr. Mitch Prinstein, Dr. Anna Bardone-Cone, Leigh Spivey
Steps for the year you’re applying

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors
4. Prepare for and take general GRE
5. Prepare for and take Psychology GRE
6. Develop an organizational system
7. Possibly contact potential advisors
8. Ask people to write your letters of recommendation
9. Order your transcripts
10. Write your personal statement
11. Optional: Prepare a CV
12. Finalize materials; submit all materials
13. Go to interviews
14. Make your decision!
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are **ready** to apply
2. Decide on **types of programs** you want to apply to

By August the year you intend to apply
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to

By August the year you intend to apply

Interested in research? Teaching? Practicing (e.g., offering therapy or conducting assessments)? Consulting? Mentoring students? Working with young children? Adolescents? Adults? The elderly?


Who will your colleagues be? What kind of job stability do you want? What salary? A consistent salary or one based on billable hours?

How many years are you willing to dedicate toward training? Are you willing to move, perhaps several times, in order to complete all aspects of training?
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors

Final list by September
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors
4. Prepare for and take general GRE
5. Prepare for and take Psychology GRE
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors
4. Prepare for and take general GRE
5. Prepare for and take Psychology GRE
6. Develop an organizational system
7. Possibly contact potential advisors

September, October
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors
4. Prepare for and take general GRE
5. Prepare for and take Psychology GRE
6. Develop an organizational system
7. Possibly contact potential advisors
8. Ask people to write your letters of recommendation
   - September
9. Order your transcripts
   - September-November
10. Write your personal statement
11. Optional: Prepare a CV
Breaking it down

1. Decide if you are ready to apply
2. Decide on types of programs you want to apply to
3. Make your list of specific schools and advisors
4. Prepare for and take general GRE
5. Prepare for and take Psychology GRE
6. Develop an organizational system
7. Possibly contact potential advisors
8. Ask people to write your letters of recommendation
9. Order your transcripts
10. Write your personal statement
11. Optional: Prepare a CV
12. Finalize materials; submit all materials
13. Go to interviews
14. Make your decision!

December-February

April-May
## Overview of Suggested Steps for Applying to Graduate School in Clinical Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Our Suggested Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Decide on the types of programs you want to apply to</td>
<td>By August of the year you are applying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2</td>
<td>Make your list of specific schools and advisors</td>
<td>Complete your final list by September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3</td>
<td>A. Prepare for and take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)</td>
<td>A. General GRE: Offered many days of the year. Take it as early as possible (ideally by the summer).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Prepare for and take the Psychology Subject Test GRE</td>
<td>B. Psychology GRE (if applicable): Offered in April, Oct., Nov. Take as early as possible (ideally in April).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Develop an organizational system</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5</td>
<td>Possibly contact potential advisors</td>
<td>Sept., Oct., possibly early Nov.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6</td>
<td>Ask people to write your letters of recommendation</td>
<td>Ask in September, distribute materials by early October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 7</td>
<td>Order your transcripts</td>
<td>Check your college’s Registrar’s policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 8</td>
<td>Write your personal statements</td>
<td>September, October, November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 9</td>
<td>Optional: Prepare a CV</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 10</td>
<td>Make sure to review and complete all program requirements; submit all materials</td>
<td>September, October, November, and December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 11</td>
<td>Interview offers come in</td>
<td>Generally January, February, early March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 12</td>
<td>Go to interviews</td>
<td>Generally late Jan., Feb., and March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 13</td>
<td>Hear from schools after interviews</td>
<td>Generally February, March, April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 14</td>
<td>Make your decision!</td>
<td>March or April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions??

For more information, check out “Mitch’s Uncensored Advice for Applying to Graduate School in Clinical Psychology” and clinicalpsychgradschool.org