How to Select a Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology

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You have an offer(s)....now what??
Consider the research & clinical fit

- How interested are you in research?
  - Is your potential advisor (or program in general) doing the kind of research you want to do?
  - Are there opportunities to collaborate on other research projects?

- How interested are you in clinical work?
  - Will the program/geographic area provide you with access to the populations you are interested in working with?
  - Are there practica experiences that interest you?

- In general, how would the program fit your professional goals (i.e., what you want to do in the future)?
Consider the advisor

- Is your potential advisor doing research you are interested in?
  - Do your research on them!
    - Read recent articles
    - Check their website
    - Look at their CV
- How does the advisor’s mentoring style & personality fit with you?
  - Talk with current grad students!
- Not like applying to undergrad
  - Looking at an advisor as much or more than the school
Consider the program

- Funding opportunities
  - RA/TA
  - Summer

- “Track Record”
  - Mean graduation time
  - Internship placement rate
  - Accreditation

- What is the program’s culture? The department’s?
  - Collegial?
  - Sink or swim?

- Where is the school located?
  - Important to determine where YOU want to be for the next 5-6 years
  - Diversity of population in the region?
  - Cost of living
Consider....yourself!

- Look back from your notes at the interview...
  - How did it “feel”? What were grad students saying?
- In addition to professional goals, what are your personal goals, needs, philosophies?
  - How does the program fit within these? Your advisor?
In the final analysis...

- Each program has its pros and cons
  - What differs from program to program?
  - Weighing the components is idiosyncratic
    - Don’t underestimate the “Je Ne Sais Qua” factor

- What if I only get into one program & I don’t like it?

- What if I don’t get in?
  - Clinical psych is extremely competitive and sometimes requires multiple tries to get in
Resources to guide you...

http://www.apa.org/apags/
Personal reflections on finding “the one”...
If you have additional questions...

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- **Graduate Students**
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