



Applying to Psych Grad School

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& Carolyn Hoessler
PSA ~ www.psych.utoronto.ca/~psa



Today...


- Outline all 12 steps
- Some of the key steps in detail
 - Letters of Reference
 - List of potential Schools
 - Decide on Grad Schools
 - Filling out Applications
- Q & A



Outline ~ all 12 Steps


1) Make a commitment to go to grad school

- Approx. 2 months for Fall 06 start
- Preparing Vs. Applying as you are




2) Scholarships

- Need transcripts & letters of reference
- 4 main scholarships when applying to Canadian Universities: NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, OGS (for Ontario)
- Abroad – ask university & country's consulates



3) GRE = Graduate Record Exam

- GRE-General= book appointment
- GRE-Psych = Nov 12 or December ONLY
- REGISTER TONIGHT if you haven't already!!
www.ets.org
- You CAN study for the GRE – books, courses, online
- When you get your confirmation – double check location & day/time
- Day of writing:
 - Show up early
 - you get to list a few schools for free to send results to, costs to send results later



Psychology Programs

- How many?

Psychology Programs

from the APA Graduate Studies 2006 book

Adolescence and Youth ♦ Adult development ♦ Aging ♦ Applied ♦ Applied Development ♦ Applied Social ♦ Art Therapy ♦ Behavior Therapy ♦ Behavioral Analysis ♦ Behavioral genetics ♦ Behavioral medicine ♦ Behavioral neurosciences ♦ Behavioral sciences ♦ Behavioral sciences - applied ♦ Child Development ♦ Child psychology ♦ Clinical ♦ Clinical Assessment ♦ Clinical neuropsychology ♦ Clinical respecialization ♦ Clinical-child ♦ Clinical-community ♦ Clinical-school ♦ Cognitive ♦ College Counseling ♦ College Counseling and administration ♦ College teaching ♦ Community ♦ Community rehabilitation counseling ♦ Community-clinical ♦ Community-school ♦ Comparative ♦ Computer applications ♦ Conditioning ♦ Consulting psychology ♦ Consumer ♦ Counseling ♦ Counseling and guidance ♦ counseling-colleges and universities ♦ counseling-elementary school ♦ counseling-secondary school ♦ curriculum and instruction ♦ developmental ♦ developmental-comparative ♦ Ecological ♦ Educational ♦ Educational measurement ♦ Educational research and evaluation ♦ Engineering ♦ Environmental ♦ Experimental psychopathology ♦ Experimental-animal behavior ♦ Experimental-general ♦ Forensic ♦ General ♦ Health Psychology ♦ History and systems ♦ Human development and family studies ♦ Human factors ♦ Human relations ♦ Human services administration ♦ Human sexuality ♦ Humanistics ♦ Industrial/organizational ♦ Law and psychology ♦ Learning ♦ Learning-animal ♦ learning-human ♦ life-span development ♦ Marriage and family ♦ Marriage and family Therapy ♦ Mental Health ♦ Mental retardation ♦ Minority mental health ♦ Neuropsychology ♦ neuroscience ♦ Organizational ♦ Other ♦ Pastoral counseling ♦ pediatric ♦ personality ♦ Personal and guidance ♦ Phenomenological ♦ Physiological ♦ Preclinical ♦ Primate Behavior ♦ Professional ♦ Program evaluation ♦ Psychobiology ♦ Psycholinguistics ♦ Psychological assessment ♦ Psychology of women ♦ Psychometrics ♦ Psychopharmacology ♦ Psychotherapy and psychoanalysis ♦ public policy ♦ Quantitative ♦ Reading ♦ Rehabilitation ♦ Research methodology ♦ School ♦ Sensation and perception ♦ Social ♦ Sociocultural perspectives ♦ Special education ♦ Sports ♦ Statistics ♦ Substance abuse ♦ Supervision

4) Decide on Area

- 3 main areas:
 - Applied and Counseling (PhD or terminal MA)
 - Experimental/Research PhD
 - Clinical PhD

5) Decide on Topic

- Area within
- E.g., social, aging, poverty, depression...

6) Letters of Reference

- SOON!
 - Remember professors are busy people!
- Choose someone who you know will give you a good reference

7) List of Potential Schools

- Search by Topic:
- Some good websites:
 - www.gradschools.com
 - www.prospects.ac.uk
 - www.socialpsychology.org (not just Social)
- APA Grad Studies book – list on PSA website/office

8) Decide on Grad Schools

- Once you have the big list, Narrow it!

9) Transcripts ~ End of October

- Requires that you know: the schools & how many transcripts & what type each program requires
- www.rosi.utoronto.ca -> sign in -> transcripts -> Request transcripts -> custom recipient (type in address yourself just in case, but double check)
- 3 types and 3 pick up locations:
 - Pick up at _____ issued to student = you pick up & but not in sealed envelop (not "official")
 - Pick up at _____ in sealed envelop = you pick up "official" copy to include with application package - don't open otherwise program might not accept
 - UTTC mail out to recipient = when schools ask for transcripts "to be sent"

10) Filling out Applications

- Take time for each application
- It is worth the effort!

11) Contact Potential Supervisors

- Know what their area is before contacting, ideally look through their list of recent publications (use psycinfo)
- By email introduce yourself briefly and ask if they will be accepting graduate students for a Sept 2006 start.
- Best to do before you apply but can be done afterwards
 - May save you \$

12) When invited to a school, Go!

- Important to meet your potential supervisors!

In Detail...

- 6) Letters of Reference
- 7) List of Potential Schools
- 8) Decide on Grad Schools
- 10) Filling out Applications

In Detail ~ 6) Letters of Reference

- **Decide on a list of potential referees. Start thinking about this today**
 - What types of references are required by your program?
 - Clinical = research letter, letter showing some work with clinical populations
 - Applied = research letter, letter showing work in area of interest
 - Research = research letters, academic/research
 - Who do you know who can write you a good letter?
 - People very familiar with your work
 - People who are well known within your field

In Detail ~ 6) Letters of Reference cont.

- Email potential writers/referees
 - Ask them if they will be willing to provide you with a reference letter for your graduate school applications.
 - Do this as soon as possible
 - If they say yes, let them know that you will provide them with the relevant information once it is available.

In Detail ~ 6) Letters of Reference cont.

- **1st week of Nov:** Give writers/referees who said they can the following information:
 - Any instructions each school gives (i.e., how the reference should be formatted, who to send it to, ...)
 - Addressed and stamped envelopes (if necessary)
 - A package of your relevant personal information (i.e., unofficial transcripts, a copy of sample writing, ...)
 - Make sure to include a condensed summary of your achievements and of any weak points in your application.

In Detail ~ 7) List of Potential Schools

- Search by **Program Topic**
 - Topic → program listing → school
 - E.g., Cognition program, Health Psych
 - Lists: websites & APA grad studies book
- Search by **Topic via psycinfo**
 - Topic → article → authors → school
 - E.g., Memory for faces

In Detail ~ 8) Decide on Grad Schools

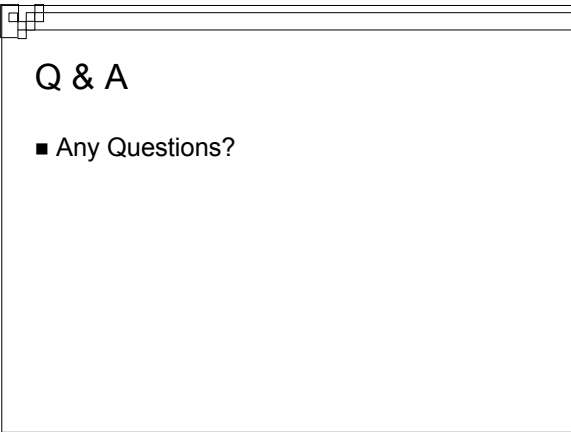
- **October: Narrow by:** (websites)
 - Specific Program of interest?
 - End Result (e.g., accredited for clinical)?
 - Faculty in interested area?
 - Courses taught in program?
- **End of October: Narrow further by:**
 - Requirements (APA)
 - Financial Considerations (APA)
 - Faculty of interest taking graduate students? (Contact)
- <http://www.cpa.ca/graduate/guide.pdf> OR APA book

In Detail ~ 10) Filling out Applications

- Take time to read through the entire package to see what they require
 - May not be in chronological order
- Think about your audience and answers
- Make a rough copy, have someone else edit
- Fill in good copy (online or on paper) neatly
- Each application is different so do NOT simply copy, you need to tailor

Graduate Program Fair

- Tomorrow Oct 6th 11am - 3pm
- Career Center & Bahen
- Various graduate programs
- Including International (e.g., Oztrekk group)



Q & A

- Any Questions?