

GRADUATE TRAINING IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- What is clinical psychology?
- What type of experience do I need?
- How do I apply?
- Funding your graduate education
- Ask us!



Roles of a
psychologist

Where do
psychologists
work?

Overview of
clinical
psychology
programs

Other mental
health graduate
programs

WHAT IS CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY?

ROLES OF A PSYCHOLOGIST

- Assessment and diagnosis
 - Psychodiagnostic testing
 - Psychoeducational evaluations
 - Neuropsychological assessments
- Provision of therapy
 - Individual (adult, child)
 - Couples and families
 - Groups
- Clinical research
- Consultation
- Education



WHERE DO PSYCHOLOGISTS WORK?

- Government agencies
- Veterans' and military hospitals
- Drug rehabilitation and correctional facilities
- Elementary and secondary schools
- Colleges and universities
- Hospital and medical clinics
- Mental health hospitals and community centers
- Group and private practices



OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS

- Training models
 - Clinical scientist
 - Scientist-practitioner
 - Practitioner-scholar
- Specialties/concentrations
 - Clinical child/adolescent psychology
 - Clinical adult psychology
 - Clinical health psychology
 - Combinations – ex. clinical child & health = pediatric psychology
 - Neuropsychology (child, adult, or lifespan)



OTHER MENTAL HEALTH GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Clinically-focused degrees
 - Social work (typically M.S.W.)
 - School psychology (terminal Master's or Ph.D.)
 - Licensed professional counselor (LPC) & Marriage and family therapist (MFT)
 - Doctorate in Psychology (Psy.D.)
- Research-focused degrees
 - Master's in general psychology
 - Counseling psychology Ph.D.
 - School psychology Ph.D.
- Medical degree
 - Psychiatry (M.D.)



WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE DO I NEED?

Undergraduate Research Experience

Lab assistant

Independent project

Post-Baccalaureate Experience

Research

Clinical

**POST-
BACCALAUREATE
OPPORTUNITIES**

Paid or volunteer research positions

Terminal Master's programs

Some (limited) bachelor's-level clinical positions

Why?

- Difficult to gain acceptance to clinical Ph.D. program directly post-bac
- Gain skills and prepare for transition to graduate work
- Time to refine your interests
- Be sure that this is what you want to do!

RESEARCH
different
programs

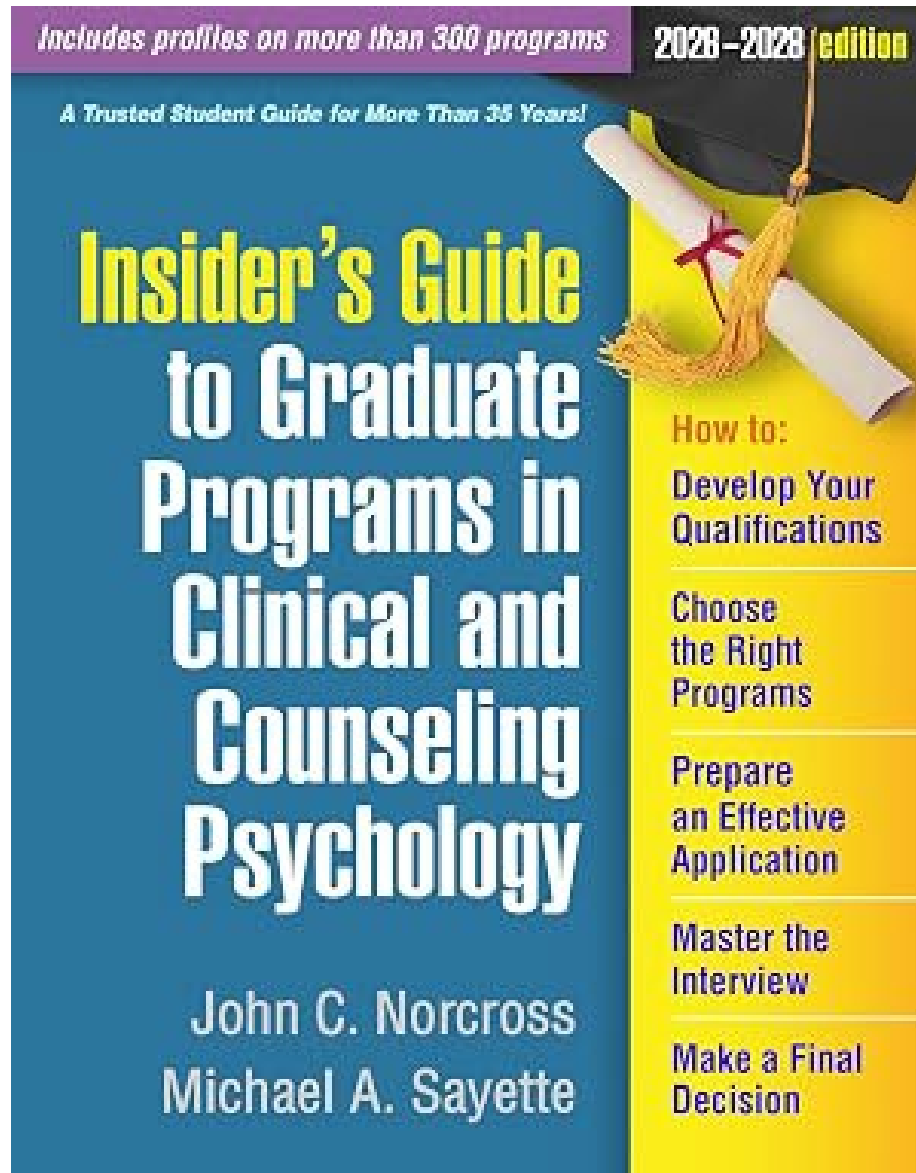
TAKE THE GRE
(General and
Psychology)

GET Letters of
Recommendation

WRITE a personal
statement

Prepare your
CURRICULUM
VITAE (CV)

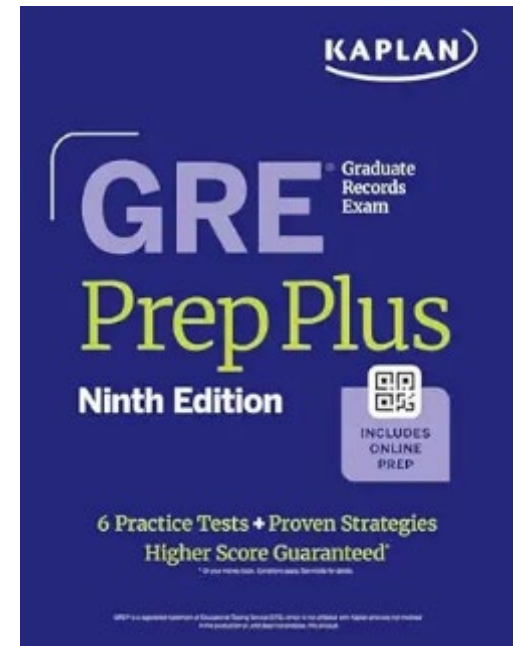
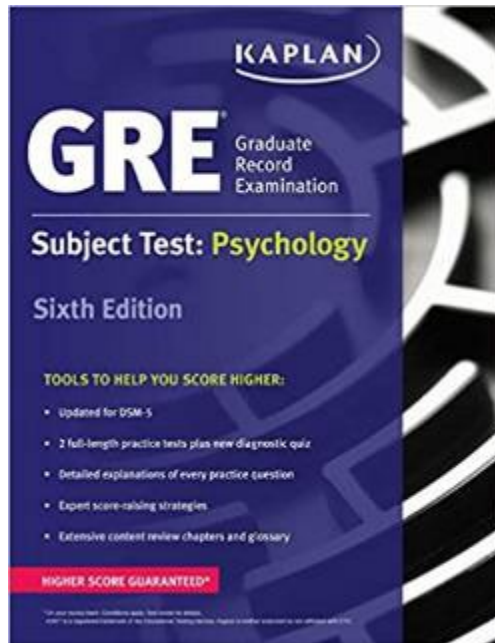
HOW DO I APPLY?



RESEARCH DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

- Take time to *really* research programs
 - Identify possible major professors
 - **All about FIT**
- APA accreditation





TAKE THE GRE (GENERAL AND PSYCHOLOGY)

- General GRE offered throughout the year
- Psych GRE offered only on specific dates



OBTAIN LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



Submit three letters

Try to have at least one writer with a Clinical Psychology PhD

Most impressive letters say more than how well you did in a class



Ask for letters EARLY

Give letter writers your CV, personal statement, list of programs, and deadlines

Be appreciative and nice 😊



WRITE YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT(S)

- Tailor your statement to each program and professor
- Describe:
 - Your research interests – identify research mentors
 - Your fit – with a faculty mentor and the training model
 - Highlight your strengths and your achievements
 - Be careful about any personal information you share



PREPARE A CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Master of Education in Counselling Psychology
The University of Western Ontario, London, ON

Anticipated Completion: April 2010

Master's Thesis:
• Title of thesis

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

Dec 2006

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Sept 08 – April 09

Dr. Red, The University of Western Ontario, London ON

- Provided educational and emotional support for women who experienced violence
- Facilitated weekly self-esteem workshops aimed at providing tools for supporting increased confidence and positive self-views
- Conducted semi-structured assessment interviews involving a vast array of questionnaires designed for the purpose of gathering information relating to the experience of violence
- Transcribed, entered, and analyzed data collected from assessment interviews

Head Research Assistant

Dec 05 – Aug 08

Dr. Orange, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

- Examined the impact of negative moods on self-enhancing cognitions
- Developed statistical databases for coding and data entry
- Trained and supervised research assistants as well as coordinated weekly research seminars and laboratory meetings
- Coordinated the University Psychology Volunteer Research Pool

Volunteer Research Assistant

Sept 04 – April 05

Dr. Yellow, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

- Administered various cognitive, visual attention, and memory research tests
- Developed the computer skills necessary to input and code data

COUNSELLING EXPERIENCE

Counsellor Intern

Sept 09 – Present

Psychological Services, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON

- Provided counselling support to clients dealing with a diverse range of issues including eating disorders, depression, anxiety, trauma, grief, and suicidal ideation
- Interpreted psychological assessments and communicated results to clients in a therapeutic and supportive environment
- Participated in triage services supporting clients in crisis
- Developed and facilitated a "Women's Safety on Campus" workshop with the aim of

- CV = academic resume
 - Contact information
 - Educational background
 - Awards/honors
 - Presentations
 - Publications
 - Research experience
 - Clinical experience
 - Other work experience
 - Specific academic skills
 - Professional memberships
 - Leadership roles



FUNDING YOUR GRADUATE EDUCATION

- Varies:
 - Master's Degree- clinically focused (primarily self funded, loans, limited fellowships)
 - Master's Degree- research focused (primarily self funded, loans, limited fellowships)
 - PsyD (primarily self funded, some programs offer stipends)
 - PhD- clinically focused (most offer at least partial stipends, some offer additional support)
 - PhD- research focused (primarily university funded, additional support)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Research
Assistantships /
Training Grants



Teaching
Assistantships



University
Fellowships



External
Fellowships



APA CATALYST PROGRAM

- Supports master's and doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees committed to enhancing psychological and behavioral outcomes in underserved communities through training, mentoring, and financial support
- Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS)
- Services for Transition Age Youth Fellowship (STAY)
- Interdisciplinary Fellowship Program (IFP)
- Behavioral Health and Public Policy Program (BHPP)





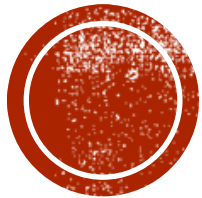
- \$20,000 stipend for 3 years
- Additional support from the university for 2 years
- Tuition expenses
- Professional development support

<https://www.sreb.org/doctoral-scholars-program>

MORE RESOURCES ABOUT FUNDING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

- APA Grants, Scholarships, and Funding Page
 - <https://www.apa.org/about/awards>
- NIH Fellowships and Training Page
 - Summer Internship Program (SIP)
 - Student Intramural Research and Training Award (IRTA)
- Post-Bacc Opportunities:
 - Check out resources from APA:
<https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/psn/2025/02/post-bacc-research-position>
 - Research Assistant/Lab Manager positions on the New Psych Job Wiki
<https://sites.google.com/view/psychjobwiki2425/research-assist-lab-manager-2026-27>
 - <https://undergrad.psychology.fas.harvard.edu/post-graduate-research-jobs>
 - University of Pittsburgh Hot Metal Bridge Program
 - <https://www.asgraduate.pitt.edu/hot-metal-bridge-post-bac-program>
 - Social media





ASK US!



PATHS TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Experiences as an undergrad/postbac

Deciding to go to graduate school



EXPERIENCES AS A GRADUATE STUDENT

Negotiating identity

Balancing multiple roles: Student; researcher; clinician-in-training; teacher; other roles

Challenges (and good things) about getting a Ph.D.



OTHER QUESTIONS YOU HAVE!