Getting Started with Your Applications

What they are like, and how to prepare over the summer

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We’ll start 1:05pm CT/ 2:05pm ET
Goals for this session

- Increase knowledge of the graduate application process (especially if this is your first time)
- Increase knowledge of what is the GRE
- Lay out steps that can be started over the summer
Master’s, PhD, PsyD?

- Why choose one or the other?
  - The training differs (MA/MS, PsyD prepare you for more applied, not necessarily academic work).
  - Funding differs (MA/PsyD not funded, usually)

- What do they prepare you for?
  - You can work in research, industry, government, NPOs with an MA/MS
  - Want academia or to hit the ground leading projects? PhD is the way, but you can teach at CC with an MA/MS

- What are these programs like?
  - Master’s: Mostly classes, research, some practicum if clinical
  - PhD: Often classes, research, and teaching/grad assistantship
What is graduate school like?

- Types of programs, certifications, training opportunities
- One advisor or many advisors?
- Lab-focused or program-focused?
- Cohort style (common in clinical), classes/research, no specific curriculum (you make your own with your program/advisor)
What does the application process look like?

- What do you typically need to submit?
- How do you apply?
- How and when do you hear back?
- What is the typical timeline for applying and hearing back (for MA/MS, PhD/PsyD)?
What does the application process look like?

- What do you typically need to submit?
  - Letters of Recommendation (usually 3)
  - Statement of Purpose/Personal Statement (look different in each place)
  - GRE (typically only the general)
  - Unofficial transcripts (if international, need copies of cert. translations—and then originals when admitted)
  - Resume/CV
  - Writing sample (sometimes)
  - Application fee & some filling out of forms
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We will focus on these on our next workshop.
What does the application process look like?

- What do you typically need to submit?
- How do you apply?
  - What does the website look like?
  - How do letters of REC get entered?
  - What is your responsibility?
What does the application process look like?

- What do you typically need to submit?
- How do you apply?
- How and when do you hear back?
- What is the typical timeline for applying and hearing back (for MA/MS/PhD/PsyD)?
What is the GRE?

- A computer-based test
- Taken at a testing center
  - All the rules of testing centers apply, like no personal items in the room
- Can be taken multiple times, but there’s a “waiting period” in between
- Taking the test costs money & sending results to schools costs money
- You can prepare on your own or with programs
- There are three parts to the test (universities share the average score of their admitted students)
- GRE is an adaptive test, not everyone gets the same questions, and the test gets harder, easier, as you get things right or wrong
- Immediate feedback (quant + verbal sections)
Summer is a great time to consider...

- What institutions you want to apply to:
  - What matters in an institution for you
  - Consider location, composition of the faculty, composition of the student body, funding (how much and for how long), cost of living in the area
  - Your identity and your personal goals also matter

- Who your prospective advisors are:
  - What do they do, who are their grad students (how much they publish together, do grad students have families, do they look happy)
  - When you’re done selecting, it’s time to think about reaching out to them
  - Draft emails – have someone proofread them for you

- Preparing for the GRE

- Grad applications are expensive. Be strategic:
  - maximize odds of getting into a program while being sensitive to your goals
Thank you! Questions?

You can reach us on our personal emails

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Or, if you have suggestions for future Free-Form Fridays for students: spsp_gsc@spsp.org