

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 to 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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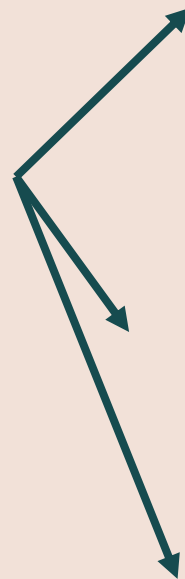
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- Writing sample (sometimes)

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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 had 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 of your goals

Thank you! Questions?

You can reach us on our personal emails

Fernanda C. Andrade (fernanda.andrade@duke.edu)

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