



# Finding Fit: Types of Degrees and Programs

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO APPLYING TO GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY  
PROGRAMS

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American Psychological Association

# Finding Fit: Types of Degrees and Programs

- ▶ Why would you choose a:
  - ▶ Master's Degree (MS or MA) program?
  - ▶ Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) program?
  - ▶ Doctorate of Psychology (PsyD) program?
- ▶ Applying to programs in a Department of Psychology versus in a School of Psychology.
- ▶ What is APA accreditation and how it may or may not be relevant to you?

Over 1500 programs offered at more than 500 schools and departments



## How do you pick your way?

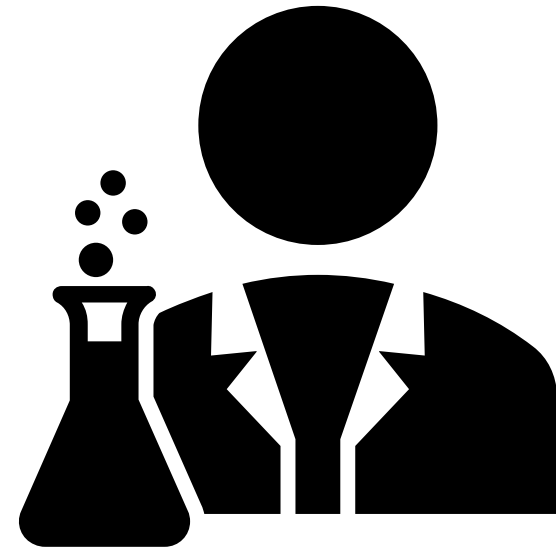
First way to refine your search – know WHAT YOU WANT to do after graduate school.

- ▶ **Be a scientist that discovers the next psychological breakthrough?**
- ▶ **Be a professional psychologist that provides services based upon psychology?**
- ▶ **Be a researcher or professional that applies psychology in other fields?**

Knowing the answer to this helps you figure out the rest

# Disciplinary Research Training

1. Most disciplinary research training programs offer a PhD degree, with a few offering a MS.
2. Primary training outcome is to produce researchers that pursue fundamental or critical questions (i.e., think professor).
  - ▶ Cognitive Sciences & Decision Making
  - ▶ Developmental Psychology
  - ▶ Social Psychology
  - ▶ Experimental Psychology



# Professional Practice and Service Training



1. Most professional practice and service training programs offer either PsyD or PhD degrees, although there are many MA and MS degrees too.
2. Primary training outcome is to produce individuals that provide services based upon psychological principles. Most common is health service psychology:
  - ▶ Clinical Psychology
  - ▶ Counseling Psychology
  - ▶ School Psychology

# Applied Research and Application Training



Applied research programs offer predominantly PhD and PsyD degrees, with some MS.

Primary training outcome is to produce individuals to research and/or apply psychological principles in many settings or fields, such as business, law, and public policy.

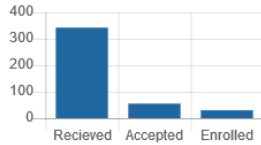
- ▶ I/O Psychology
- ▶ Forensic Psychology
- ▶ Sports Psychology



Programs look for applicants that match their training goals.

Graduate programs **are assessing your FIT for the type of training and degree they offer.**

Read the program descriptions to learn more about what they teach and the type of psychologists they hope to produce.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS	APPLICATION DEADLINES	ADMISSIONS DATA (2017)	PROGRAM OUTCOMES (2016–17)								
Clinical Psychology	Fall January 02	 <table><tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th></tr><tr><td>Received</td><td>350</td></tr><tr><td>Accepted</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Enrolled</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Category	Count	Received	350	Accepted	50	Enrolled	20	Median Years to Degree 5
			Category	Count							
			Received	350							
Accepted	50										
Enrolled	20										
Degrees Awarded 28											
Students Withdrawn or Dismissed 0											

PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium

1791 Arastradero Road  
Palo Alto, CA, US 94304

**Telephone:** (800) 818-6136  
**Email:** [admissions@palou.edu](mailto:admissions@palou.edu)  
**Web:** <http://www.paloalto.edu/graduate-programs/pgsp-psyd-stanford-consortium>

**Head:** Kimberly Hill, Ph.D.

Program Overview

The PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium is a practitioner-scholar program intended for individuals seeking careers devoted primarily to the direct delivery of clinical psychological services. The program provides a generalist education in clinical psychology, relegating the pursuit of more specialized training to students later post-doctoral education. The Consortium training model emphasizes evidence-based practice, and the priority we assign to evidence-based practice is matched by our commitment to promote students broad and general understanding of science and to foster students ability to critically evaluate scientific theories, methods, and conclusions. As might be expected of an interdisciplinary faculty drawn from a medical school and an academic psychology department, the program takes a biopsychosocial approach to psychology, striving for a balanced, integrated, contemporary understanding of the biological, social and psychological factors affecting human behavior. Thus, students competent understanding of science and scientific methods represents a critical priority of the Consortium educational program.

Admissions Criterion

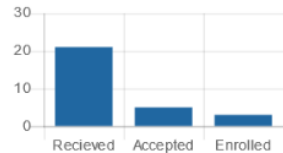
GRE Scores	Medium	Research Experience	Medium	Work Experience	High
Interview	High	Statement of Goals and Objectives	High	Clinically Related Public Service	High
GPA	High	Letters of Recommendation	High	Undergraduate Psychology Preparation	High

# Behavioral Neuroscience (PhD)

Ohio State University

APPLY NOW

Rectan

AREAS OF EMPHASIS	APPLICATION DEADLINES	ADMISSIONS DATA (2017)	PROGRAM OUTCOMES (2016–17)						
Neuroscience	Fall December 01	 <table><tr><td>Received</td><td>Accepted</td><td>Enrolled</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Received	Accepted	Enrolled	20	5	2	Median Years to Degree 6.5
			Received	Accepted	Enrolled				
			20	5	2				
Degrees Awarded 2									
			Students Withdrawn or Dismissed N/A						

Department of Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences  
225 Psychology Building, 1835 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH, US 43210

**Telephone:** (614) 292-4112  
**Email:** [jones.3308@osu.edu](mailto:jones.3308@osu.edu)  
**Web:** <http://www.psy.ohio-state.edu>

**Head:** John Bruno, Ph.D.

## Program Overview

The department is comprehensive in nature, with PhD programs in nearly all the major fields of study in psychology. The programs all strive to educate psychological scientists, and there is consequently a strong emphasis on research training in the doctoral programs, even in the applied areas. Our objective is to prepare theoretically-sophisticated psychologists who leave us with effective skills to build upon in their later careers and with the ability to grow as psychology develops as a science and profession.

## Admissions Criterion

GRE Scores High	Research Experience High	Work Experience Low
Interview High	Statement of Goals and Objectives High	Clinically Related Public Service Low
GPA High	Letters of Recommendation High	Undergraduate Psychology Preparation Medium

# Type of Training Environment also has some impact on your application – and your career

University Department or School	Research Experience	Clinical Experience	Psychology Major/ Background	Alignment of Career Goals
College of Arts and Sciences	High	Low	Medium	High
School of Psychology	Medium	Medium	High	High
School of Education	Low	Medium	High	High

Source: APA (2019). *Graduate Study in Psychology Summary Report*

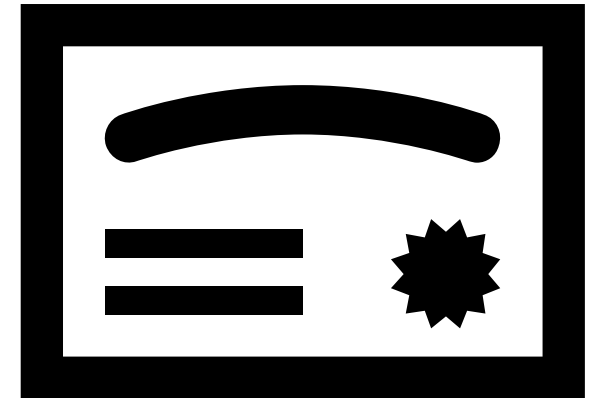
<https://www.apa.org/education/grad/survey-data/2019-admissions-applications.pdf>

# Finally, APA Accreditation

APA Accreditation is a voluntary process, meaning the faculty of the program elect to undergo APA review to achieve accreditation status.

APA accreditation applies only to **doctoral-level programs (PhD or PsyD)** that train health service psychologists.

- ▶ Clinical Psychology
- ▶ Counseling Psychology
- ▶ School Psychology
- ▶ **Many states require you attend an APA-accredited program in order to receive a license to practice as a licensed psychologist in that state.**





**DESTINATION:**

Disciplinary  
Research  
Training

**ROUTE:**

Most often PhD,  
with some master's  
level degrees

**EXAMPLE SUBFIELDS:**

Cognitive sciences  
& decision making;  
Developmental;  
Social and  
Personality;  
Behavioral  
Neuroscience

**APA ACCREDITED:**

Not within the  
scope



**DESTINATION:**

Applied Research  
and Professional  
Service Training

**ROUTE:**

Most often PhD,  
but also PsyD and  
master's level  
programs

**EXAMPLE SUBFIELDS:**

Many of the  
examples listed in  
Professional  
Service Training,  
but also includes  
Clinical Health  
Psychology

**APA ACCREDITED:**

APA offers  
accreditation to  
only PhD and PsyD  
programs in  
clinical, counseling,  
and school  
psychology



**DESTINATION:**

Professional  
Service Training

**ROUTE:**

Both PhD and PsyD,  
and quite often a  
master's level  
degree

**EXAMPLE SUBFIELDS:**

Industrial/  
Organizational  
Psychology; School  
Psychology; Clinical  
Psychology; Clinical  
Neuropsychology

**APA ACCREDITED:**

APA offers  
accreditation to  
only PhD and PsyD  
programs in  
clinical, counseling,  
and school  
psychology

# More Resources from APA

## Frequently Asked Questions About Graduate School

<https://www.apa.org/education/grad/faqs.aspx>

## Psychology Learning Curve

<http://psychlearningcurve.org/>

## APA's Graduate Study in Psychology

<http://gradstudy.apa.org/>

## PSYCAS: The Psychology Centralized Application Service

<https://psycas.liaisoncas.com>

## Graduate Education And Training Calendar

<https://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/events>

# More Webinars about Graduate Study in Psychology

## Finding Fit: Getting In and Getting Through

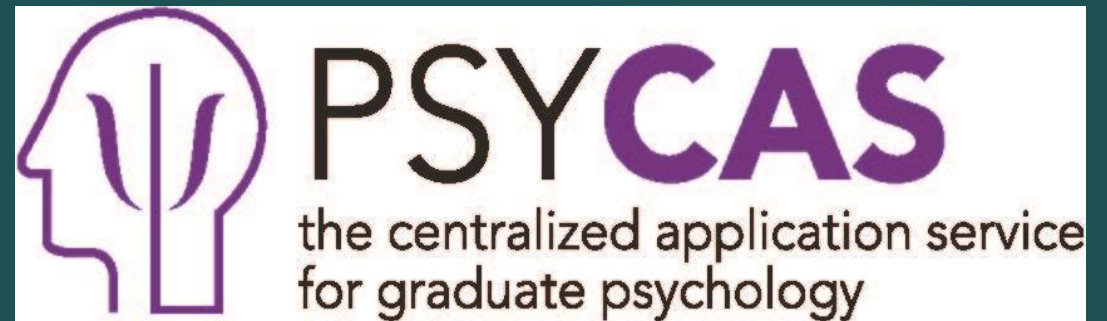
- ❑ October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM Eastern
- ❑ October 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM Eastern

## Finding Fit: Writing Personal Statements

- ❑ November 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM Eastern
- ❑ November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM Eastern

## Finding Fit: Understanding the Power of Letters of Recommendation

- ❑ November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM Eastern
- ❑ November 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM Eastern



## PSYCAS: Everything You Need to Know

- ❑ October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM Eastern
- ❑ October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 PM Eastern