

Understanding the Power of Letters of Recommendation

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More Webinars about Graduate Study in Psychology

Finding Fit: Understanding the Power of Letters of Recommendation

- ☐ November 13th, 1 PM Eastern
- ☐ November 14th, 10 AM Eastern

Finding Fit: Interviewing for Graduate School

- ☐ Date - TBD



PSYCAS

the centralized application service
for graduate psychology

PSYCAS: Everything You Need to Know

- ☐ November 14th, 3 PM Eastern
- ☐ December 11th, 12 PM Eastern

Letters of Recommendation

- ***Purpose:*** to secure outside evaluations of you from sources that most closely approximate the faculty with which you will be working. Includes professional, personal, and interpersonal commentaries.
- **Research demonstrates that letters of recommendation are the single most important source of “subjective” information in your application**

Choosing Letter Writers

- **Knowing this, choose carefully**
- **First, how many: 3-4**
- **Second, who: academic, clinical, research**
- **All Ph.D. or co-signed by Ph.D.**
- **No politicians, family friends, practicing therapists, etc.**



Letters of Recommendation

- Choose people who know you well, who can speak to different aspects of your experience, and who can and will take the time to write a strong letter
- ask, “Would you be willing to write me a strong letter of recommendation for graduate study in psychology?”



Provide Letter Writers With:

- Thumbnail sketch that includes
- Name and contact information
- The type of program to which you are applying
- How they know you
- Your GRE and GPAs
- Bulleted items that you want them to include - e.g. Psi Chi president, APA convention presentation, area(s) of study, honors or awards
- Redundancy is fine



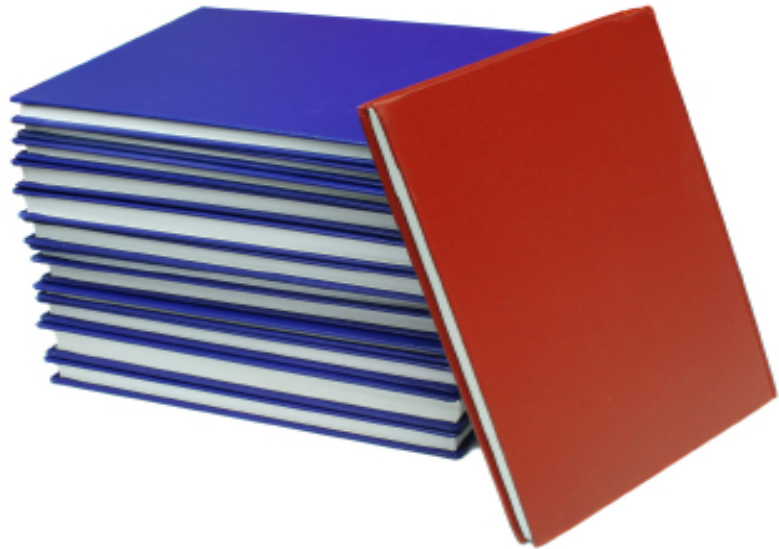
Provide Letter Writers With:

- Prominent deadline for completion, one week *earlier than earliest* deadline
- Provide a complete list of ALL schools at one time



Other Possible Inclusions

- **Published papers (seeing is believing)**
- **Senior thesis (check with faculty)**



Letters of Recommendation

- If letter writers give you an opportunity to review and revise, take it
- Add anything you want
 - delete only fact errors
- Return copy to writer with tracked changes and a new file clearly marked, “revised letter”





Questions and Answers

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More Resources from APA

Frequently Asked Questions About Graduate School

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

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>