



So you're wondering...

Which Psychology Graduate Program is Right for Me?

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REAL QUESTION:

**What Do
You Want to
Be When
You Grow
Up?**



How About Clinical Work?

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Private practice
- Nonprofits
- **Possible Degrees:**
 - Psychiatrist (M.D.)
 - Clinical/Counseling Psychologist (Ph.D., Psy.D.)
 - Social Worker (M.S.W.)
 - Marriage and Family Therapy (M.F.T.)
 - Nursing (psychiatric R.N.)
 - Child Life Specialist
 - M.P.H. (sometimes)



How About A Researcher?

- University & hospital settings (includes clinical research)
- Public/non-profit/government institutions
- Private sector (e.g., marketing research)

- **Possible Degrees:**
 - Psychiatrist (M.D.)
 - Ph.D. in Psychology, Public Health, or Social Work
 - Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)
 - Doctorate of Public Health (Dr.Ph.)
 - Sometimes master's level dependent on position (e.g., study coordinator or research associate positions- M.A./M.S. in psychology, M.P.H.)



How About Education?

- K-12 Schools
- Universities
- Community Colleges

- **Possible Degrees:**
 - School Psychologist: Ph.D., Ed.D
 - Psychologist (Ph.D.)
 - Sometimes: M.S./M.A./M.Ed.



- Efficient in terms of **time** & **money** investment
 - Sometimes leads to **the same career**
- **Practice Degrees**
 - **M.S.W. *preferred degree in most clinical settings, flexible, transportable**
 - Counseling- M.F.T., school psychology
 - Licensure exams
 - Specialties: Clinical Practice management, Child Life Specialist, etc.
- **Research Degrees**
 - Master's in psychology (M.A.)
 - Neuropsych testing
 - Research skills
 - Specialties: IRB issues, Clinical Trials oversight, Project management, etc.



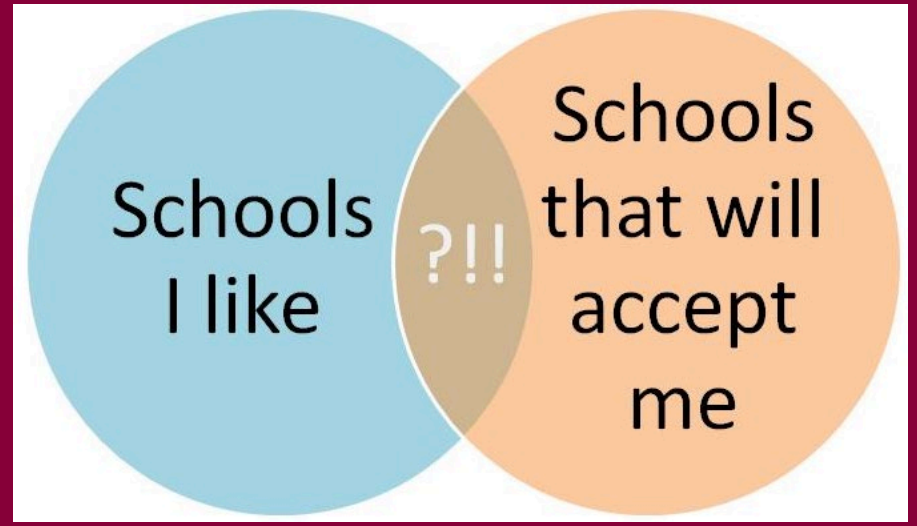
Consider a Master's

If you're sure you want your Ph.D. in Psychology

- Experimental Psychology (Ph.D)
 - Research/Academic careers
- Clinical/Counseling Psychology
 - Clinical Ph.D.
 - Clinical Scientist vs Scientist-Practitioner
 - Counseling Ph.D
 - Licensure exams
 - Psy.D.
 - Pay attention to cost...
- Don't need your master's



PREPARING TO APPLY!



- What schools offer the degree I want?
- What schools offer the specialization I want, and/or have faculty with whom I want to work?
 - **Match is key!**
 - Are faculty taking students?
- What does it take to get in?
 - Research
 - Clinical experience
 - How can I improve my qualifications?

Identifying Schools

- Internet Search
- Professional Associations websites
- American Psychological Association of Grad Students (APAGS)
- Advising services at CSUDH/student clubs
- Ask the faculty!
- PsycINFO, PubMed (look at the literature to find faculty with your interests!)
- Avoid “for-profit” and online degree programs (may have difficulty with employment after all your hard work!)



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Training

Will I learn what I want to for my career?)

Information on curriculum, practicum (clinical training, if applicable), and other opportunities is on program websites

Job Outcomes

Do students become employed upon graduation?

Info **MIGHT** be on program websites

Money

Working a separate job is not feasible during doctoral work.

You *can* get PAID to go to school- 20 hrs/wk research or teaching assistantship, tuition waver, health insurance... etc.

Expenses



Remember, if you are going to school “full time” then you should expect to be completed with your degree in 2-3 years for a master’s degree (versus 4-7 for doctoral...).

For a practice-based degree that will culminate in licensure, this is the best bang for your buck!

BEWARE FOR-PROFIT PROGRAMS!

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Loma Linda- “Most students in the department utilize federal (e.g., Stafford) and/or private loans to fund the majority of costs associated with graduate school.”

EXPECTED COST OF ATTENDANCE: PHD

YEAR OF PROGRAM	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Tuition	\$32,097	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$3,516
Fees	\$2,925	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$20
Books & Supplies	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	N/A

... versus USC

Graduate Funding Opportunities

Students admitted into the PhD program are provided with a graduate support package for a five-year period. Each student receives an annual stipend of \$34,000, 36 units of tuition paid per year, and year-round health and dental insurance. The graduate support package typically provides two years of fellowship to allow students to focus full-time on their coursework, and three years of funding as a teaching or research assistant where they develop additional professional skills. In rare cases, our faculty may fund students with a research assistantship support package that includes two years of research assistantship and three years of teaching assistantship.



TODD
CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!