Graduate School in Psychology

SELECTION, APPLICATION, AND SUCCESSFUL ADMISSION.

http://roanoke.edu/Academics/Academic_Departments/Psychology/Graduate_School_and_Careers.htm
Types of programs

- research
  - psychobiological
  - social
  - cognitive
  - personality
  - developmental
  - experimental

- professional/applied
  - clinical
  - counseling
  - industrial-organizational
  - school psychology
  - educational psychology
  - health psychology
  - community psychology
  - environmental psychology
  - forensic psychology
  - sports psychology
  - psychology and law
Type of degree

- **Ph.D. (doctorate of philosophy in psychology)**
  - research oriented
  - dissertation required
  - 5+ years

- **Psy.D. (doctorate of psychology)**
  - professional degree (no dissertation)
  - 4-5 years (including internship)

- **MA/MS (master of arts/science)**
  - general experimental (Ph.D. prep, IO psych, school psych, clinical, counseling, etc.)
  - 2-3 years (including internship for professional degrees)

- **MSW (masters in social work)**

- **MD (medical doctor – specializing in mental disorders)**
  - 4 years (including rotation and residency)
Roanoke College senior exit & alumni surveys for psychology majors (2004-05)

- Post-graduation plans (Senior Exit Survey):
  - graduate school now (38%)
  - graduate school someday (41%)
  - no graduate school (22%)

- Graduate School Degrees (Exit & Alumni Surveys):
  - MA Counseling (9)
  - JD Law (4)
  - MA School Psych (3)
  - MSW - Masters in Social Work (3)
  - MA I/O Psych (2)
  - PsyD Clinical Psych (2)
  - PhD Child Psych, MA Art Therapy, PhD Education Measurement, M.Ed (Special Education), MA Applied Behavior Analysis, MA School Counseling, MA Early Childhood Education
  - MA Forensic Psychology, MA Real estate/Housing, MA Communications, MA Environmental Studies
Finding a program

- literature review
  - read articles in your interest areas
  - find professors with similar interests

- research school & mentor
  - school website
  - order brochures & application materials

- contact faculty members
  - are they taking on new students?
  - is there a good “fit”?
Deadlines

- **Doctoral programs**
  - December to February
  - most only accept students in the fall

- **Masters programs**
  - May to June (most programs)
Paying for school

- **doctoral programs**
  - tuition waivers
  - clinical programs may not offer
  - teaching assistantship (TA)
  - research assistantship (RA)

- **masters programs**
  - fellowships
  - TA or RA
  - grant support of mentor
  - student loans
Getting accepted

- GRE
  - plan to take the Fall prior to applying to schools
  - some programs will require the Psychology Subject GRE

- grades

- research experience
  - conference presentations

- internships

- letters of recommendation
  - make it easy for your professor:
    - well organized (order by deadline)
    - pre-addressed stamped envelopes
    - give them plenty of time to complete by the deadline
    - include Vita, Statement of Purpose
    - use Reference Letter Checklist

- statement of purpose
  - get help, revise, and customize
Resources: books

- **Department Chair’s Office**
  - Insider’s Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology
  - Careers in Social Work.
  - Graduate Study in Psychology

- **books in the RC library***
  - In the General Collection
    - Perfect Personal Statements: law, business; medical; graduate school
      LB2351.52.U6S746 2002
    - Graduate Admissions Essays: write your way into the graduate school of your choice
      LB2366.2.A84 2000
  - In the Reference Collection
    - Graduate Study in Psychology  REF BF77.G73 2004 (a copy of this text can also be found in the Department Chair’s office)
    - How to write a winning personal statement for graduate and professional school  REF LB2351.52.U6S74 1997
    - Cracking the GRE  REF LB2367.4.C73 2003

* Thank you to Rebecca Heller of the RC library for compiling this list of resources.
Resources: Websites

- **RC Psyc Dept**
  - [http://roanoke.edu/Academics/Academic_Departments/Psychology/Graduate_School_and_Careers.htm](http://roanoke.edu/Academics/Academic_Departments/Psychology/Graduate_School_and_Careers.htm)

- **RC Career Services**
  - [http://web.roanoke.edu/x11572.xml](http://web.roanoke.edu/x11572.xml)

- **PsychInfo** - conduct a literature review to find professors with similar interests.

- **Departmental Websites** (admissions, degrees offered, and interests of individual professors)
Attend the Application Workshop

The application workshop will cover:
- How to write a Vita
- How to write a Statement of Purpose
- How to write a Cover Letter
- How to get a good Letter of Recommendation

Please bring the following:
- your current Resume/Vita
- a list of all of your college activities, organizations, honors, scholarships, internships, research experience, work experience, volunteer experience, etc.

Check out our website:
- [http://roanoke.edu/Academics/Academic_Departments/Psychology/Graduate_School_and_Careers.htm](http://roanoke.edu/Academics/Academic_Departments/Psychology/Graduate_School_and_Careers.htm)
Good Luck!