

What type of program are you interested in?

- Clinical vs. non-clinical tracks
- Masters vs. PhD programs

What are the general requirements?

- Bachelor's degree (some schools specify majors or coursework)
- GRE- General
 - Prep courses
- Academic Transcripts
- Personal Statement

Letters of Recommendation

- Writing Sample (occasionally)
- \$\$ and time for applications

Where do I apply?

- Identify your interests
- Identify professors who study your interests
- Contact professors you may be interested in working with and make sure they are accepting graduate students!
- Apply to those schools

When/where do I apply?

- Most PhD program deadlines are December 1st, or sometime before winter break.
- Give yourself enough time to get your applications in and pay the fees in advance.

What happens after I apply?

- Wait patiently!
- Contacted for Interviews (phone, skype, in-person, or a combination)

What happens during Interview Day?

- Depends!
- Be prepared to discuss your previous research experience, current research interests, and future goals
- Be prepared to talk A LOT
- Read about your potential; advisor's work, as well as work of others within the department.
- ASK QUESTIONS
- Email your potential advisor after the interview to thank them

When do I find out if I was accepted?

- This varies by school, but you will usually be contacted within a few weeks after the interview day.

What happens if I don't get accepted?

- Don't worry! Graduate applications are *not* like undergrad. Many departments can only accept a handful of people, and this can depend on fit, funding, etc...
- Don't be discouraged! Work on building up your resume and apply again next fall.

What are other important things to know?

- While this is a daunting process, it is very rewarding! Most PhD programs are fully funded, meaning your school is FREE!
- Finding a program is a dynamic process, you need to be a good fit for the lab, but the lab also needs to be a good fit for you.
- Most PhD programs are fully funded! This can be through graduate fellowships, TA-ships, etc...

What can I do to strengthen my application?

- Research Experience (you're already doing it!)
- Post-Baccalaureate research positions
- Ask for help (writing the personal statement, studying for the GRE, etc...)
- Reach out to potential advisors- anything that will make your application stand out more is better!

Helpful GRE tools:

Kaplan

<https://www.kaptest.com/gre>

Manhattan Prep

<https://www.manhattanprep.com/gre/store/online-resources/free-gre-practice-test/>

The Princeton Review

<https://www.princetonreview.com/grad/gre-test-prep?exid=e0067721-23dc-4d67-8bd1-479eac341e19>

Magoosh

<https://gre.magoosh.com/>

About GRE scores

<http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2009/03/score.aspx>

Other Helpful Links:

[Writing the Personal Statement](#)

<http://mitch.web.unc.edu/files/2017/02/MitchGradSchoolAdvice.pdf>

~~~~~POST BAC RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS~~~~~

- Google.com, Glassdoor.com, Indeed.com → post-bac psychology research assistant jobs
  - By searching “Post-Baccalaureate Research Assistant”, a bunch of really cool RA positions popped up. You can make your search more specific by adding in keywords such as “psychology” or “biology”
  - University psychology departments frequently have blogs created to keep their students informed about job openings → I found a LOT of these blogs just by searching “psychology post bac ra” on google. Many of the good ones that I found are listed below, but I bet there are more out there if you keep looking :)
- <http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-postbacc.html>
  - This website contains information on what a post-bac position is, as well as many recent openings for open post-bac research assistant positions
- [https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/postbac\\_irta](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/postbac_irta)
  - NIH IRTA program is great and will allow you to make a lot of wonderful connections
- Psychology Listservs
  - Cognitive Development Listserv posts a lot of RA positions in labs related to cognitive development
    - <https://cogdevsoc.org/listserv/>
  - Division 53 posts RA positions (although not as frequently as the cog dev), related to clinical child and adolescent psychology
    - <https://sccap53.org/>
- <https://undergrad.psychology.fas.harvard.edu/post-graduate-research-jobs>
- <http://clinicalpsychgradschool.org/pbacc.php>
- <https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/research-assistantship-opportunities/>
- <https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/job-opportunities/>
- <http://pbs.jhu.edu/bbtype/research-bb/>
- <https://psychandneuro.duke.edu/undergraduate/research-opportunities-jobs>
- Search for non-profits that are doing work you are interested in
  - One of our previous UGRAs is now working as a RA at Child Trends in Bethesda
  - Haley found her new position from googling research topics she’s interested in
    - If you have an interest in military populations, look up research assistant positions with the Henry Jackson Foundation and General Dynamics Information Technology → both of those places hire a lot of RAs