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

The Princeton Review

Magoosh
https://gre.magoosh.com/

About GRE scores

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](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/](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://sccap53.org/)
  - [https://undergrad.psychology.fas.harvard.edu/post-graduate-research-jobs](https://undergrad.psychology.fas.harvard.edu/post-graduate-research-jobs)
  - [https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/research-assistantship-opportunities/](https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/research-assistantship-opportunities/)
  - [https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/job-opportunities/](https://hofstrapsychadvising.wordpress.com/category/job-opportunities/)
  - [http://pbs.jhu.edu/bbtype/research-bb/](http://pbs.jhu.edu/bbtype/research-bb/)
  - [https://psychandneuro.duke.edu/undergraduate/research-opportunities-jobs](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