

## **Admissions Policies, Procedures & Candidate Selection**

Applicants are evaluated for admission by Clinical faculty, based on their transcripts, GPA, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, research experience, and personal statement.

We generally seek students with GPAs that exceed 3.5, and GRE scores that are at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles. In addition to the traditional quantitative indices of academic potential, we look for evidence of research experience and clinically-relevant service activities. We are particularly impressed by activities consonant with the applicant's identified career goals. In letters of recommendation, we look for indications that the applicant is intellectually curious and hard-working, socially adjusted and interpersonally skilled, and has a sense of humor and a mature self-perspective. We are committed to diversifying Clinical Psychology and strive to recruit students across race/ethnic groups, gender, age, geographical origin and other demographic characteristics.

The selection of new students proceeds through an initial credential review and culminates in a mid to late February open house for a select short-list of applicants who visit and are interviewed. Videoconferencing interviews are conducted for those who are not available or cannot afford to visit. Admission decisions are based on group consensus and undergo a review process by the Psychology Department Graduate Admissions Committee.

We typically admit five to ten new students in the Clinical program each year. The number of students accepted approximates the number who graduate or leave for internship and will not return and the number for whom funding is available. In recent years, the number of applicants is typically in the range of 75-125 so admission is quite competitive.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

*"Do you accept students who have a M.A.?"*

Applications are accepted from students who have either a B.A. or M.A.

*"What if I'm interested in pursuing only a Master's degree? And may I attend part-time?"*

The graduate program in Clinical Psychology is a doctoral program. Although students earn a master's degree in the course of earning the Ph.D., only students desiring the doctorate are admitted. Thus, we discourage applications from those seeking just the MA. The involvement needed to pursue the Ph.D. requires full-time enrollment status. Students must remain in residence for three years.

*"I'm not really interested in research—do you prepare students for private practice?"*

Although some of our graduates do eventually pursue careers in private practice, our program would NOT be a good fit for the student who dislikes research and only wants a private practice career.

*"What about financial assistance?"*

The Psychology Department has a long record of student support. We traditionally provide stipends and tuition waivers for all graduate students for four years in which they are enrolled in the program. Nine-month training assignments carry a monthly stipend (currently about \$1300/month before taxes for first year students), as well as a tuition remission. Support during the summer session is less predictable, but the department tries where possible to provide at least one month of support beyond the nine months of Spring and Fall terms.

*"Will I have an opportunity to gain teaching experience?"*

For those students who plan a career in teaching, a number of opportunities are available. The first experience might be as a TA/discussion leader in sections of the Introductory Psychology course, or as a TA in undergraduate research methods, or some other course. A student who has demonstrated skill and interest may ultimately have full responsibility for teaching an undergraduate course such as Personality or Psychopathology.

*"What if I want an application or have other questions?"*

You may send e-mail for more information to [gradpsyc@siu.edu](mailto:gradpsyc@siu.edu) or contact the Graduate Admissions Coordinator at 618-453-3564, postal address: Graduate Admissions Coordinator, Department of Psychology, Mailcode 6502, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901.