



TOPICS

• Why go to graduate school

• Choosing the right grad degree • How to:

⚬ know what to study

⚬ find a graduate program

⚬ reach out to prospective advisors • Components of most grad applications • Application timeline

• Cost of grad school

• Tips & Tricks

• Resources

• Q & A







Research? Teaching? Clinical Therapy? Counseling?

MA/MS

COUNSELING

School/career

counseling

Mental health clinics

MSW - SOCIAL WORK

Mental health counseling

Child welfare/ Public health

Substance abuse

PsyD

Focus on clinical services/therapy Practice, not research

PhD

“Creators of

research-based knowledge”

Emphasis on

research

Academic settings Hospitals







• Your major, school, year (if alum, what you are doing now) 

• Grad degree and year you plan to start 

• Your research interests

• Show that you know their research interests and that there is a good research fit 

• What you are asking for

⚬ Are you taking new grad 

students?

⚬ Time to talk?

• Anything else requested on their website

Dear Professor Smith,

I'm a rising senior Psychology major at Reed College. After reading about your work in the Youth Personality and Behavior Lab, I found your area of research into the relationship between self-perception and personality with youth behavioral problems very compelling, and closely aligned with my own research interests. My own interests are also in the etiology of aggression and conduct problems, especially those arising indirectly from exposure to violence, maltreatment or trauma.

I am interested in applying for a PhD program in Clinical Psychology this fall, and I am wondering if you are taking on new graduate students for Fall 2021? If so, I would like to express my interest in working in your lab and ask if you might have time for a Zoom call to talk more about your research in the next few weeks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Awesome Student





PROGRAM &

BACKGROUND

Your background as related to your

professional

accomplishments and development of your research or clinical. Why are you prepared for grad school? How have you overcome adversity?

FUTURE STUDY

What type of research or clinical work do you hope to do in graduate school

(and why are you qualified to do it)?

ADVISOR FIT

Why the program and advisor is a good fit for you. Show you have done your homework. Talk about specific aspects of the program and use advisor's names when discussing their research (if

appicable)

CAREER GOALS

What is your ultimate career goal? How will this degree help you towards that goal?









% STUDENTS RECEIVING

TUITION WAIVER PLUS 

STIPEND\*

• Master's <10%

\*

• PsyD 1-10%

• PhD 60-90%

\*from 2014 APAGS report

% STUDENT DEBT

• Master's ?

• PsyD $200k (91%)

• PhD $45k (63%)

\*from 2014 APAGS report

FUNDING FOR PHDS

• Teaching, research, or graduate assistantships are offerred through the grad school or advisor

• Should be provided tuition waiver PLUS living stipend for part time work

APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS

• UCLA GRAPES database

• Pathways to Science

• CLBR Fellowship database

• NSF GRFP

























