

For Potential Applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Utah. We realize that the process of deciding which doctoral programs to apply to, not to mention the process of submitting applications, can be a difficult process for some applicants. Below we have provided some information about our program that we hope will assist you in making an informed decision about whether our program is right for you, as well as answer some FAQs. If after reading through this information, you still have questions, I encourage you to reach out to the Director of Clinical Training at Michael.himle@utah.edu or to the individual faculty member(s) that you are interested in working with. We look forward to reviewing your application!

Which faculty are planning to accept students into their labs in the 2022-2023 application cycle?

Our program carefully reviews and considers all applications that are received. While we do our best to inform potential applicants which faculty plan to admit students into their labs each year, individual faculty situations can occasionally change after the application deadline. As such, this list should be considered a guide and there is no guarantee that the faculty listed below will or will not end up taking a student in the next cycle.

The faculty who are interested in recruiting a student into their lab in the 2022-2023 cycle are:

- Dr. Tim Smith (Dr. Smith's website can be found [here](#))
- Dr. Brian Baucom (Dr. Baucom's website can be found [here](#))
- Dr. Paula Williams (Dr. Williams' website can be found [here](#))

Faculty who are not planning on recruiting a student in the 2022-2023 cycle include:

- Dr. Anu Asnaani
- Dr. Katie Baucom
- Dr. Sheila Crowell
- Dr. Matthew Euler
- Dr. Michael Himle
- Dr. Patricia Kerig
- Dr. Yana Suchy

How do I know if the University of Utah Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology is right for me?

Pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology is a big commitment, so it is important that applicants make an informed decision about whether, when, and where to apply. In addition to exploring the information on our website to learn more about our program, prospective applicants are encouraged to read the information provided by the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP) which can be found [here](#), as well as Dr. Mitch Prinstein's "Uncensored Advice for Applying to Graduate School in Clinical Psychology," which can be found [here](#).

The Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Utah is strongly committed to promoting diversity with respect to culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, among others. We are committed to maintaining a diverse student population and minority students are especially encouraged to apply for our doctoral program. Applicants from diverse backgrounds who have questions about the clinical program, resources that are available, the admissions process, or questions about the University and Salt Lake City Communities are encouraged to contact the [Psychology Department Diversity Committee](#) or the Director of Clinical Training (michael.himle@utah.edu).

How long does it take to get a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Utah?

The Clinical Psychology program at the University of Utah is designed as a 6-year curriculum in total, including 5 years of study and supervised experience at the University of Utah and a one-year full-time predoctoral internship for the degree. To receive the doctoral degree, students must complete a minimum of three full-time academic years of graduate study (i.e., a minimum of 54 total credit hours, of which only 6 can be waived for prior work) and one year (2 consecutive semesters) in continuous, full-time residence at the University of Utah. This stipulation, along with the structure of the clinical program curriculum, therefore requires students to spend at least 3 years in the clinical program at the University of Utah in order to meet both University and program requirements. The typical student spends at least 5 years in full-time residence prior to internship. Students must complete all requirements, including successful defense of their dissertation and completion of their predoctoral internship, prior to receiving their degree.

How Competitive is the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Utah?

Admission to the U of U Clinical Psychology Program is extremely competitive. Typically, the program receives 300-400 applications for approximately 4 to 6 positions.

What qualifications make a student competitive?

Data regarding the academic records of our admitted students are available online. Admissions decisions are based on a number of factors, including academic degrees and record, written personal statement / statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, and relevant work and experience. More information on general university admission requirements and the overall application process can be found [here](#). Please note that the Psychology Department accepts students only once each year and our application deadline is December 1st.

In addition to measures of academic achievement, successful applicants typically have significant research experience prior to graduate school. Admitted applicants usually have participated in undergraduate research projects, Honors/Senior Theses, and/or additional research experience in post-baccalaureate years. The Statement of Purpose, Curriculum Vitae, and letters of recommendation are used to assess applicants' potential to succeed as an independent investigator, to generate novel hypotheses, and to be a productive scholar and consumer of scientific literature in research and/or practice.

Applicants admitted to the Clinical Psychology program usually have majored in Psychology, but other majors are acceptable if students have prior coursework in psychology and research methods/statistics. Applicants with a Master's degree are occasionally accepted. When appropriate, these students may receive exemptions from a few departmental course requirements.

We strongly encourage applicants to indicate within their Statement of Purpose the area(s) of research they are most interested in and why, along with the names of 1 to 2 faculty members they may like as a primary research mentor. It is very important to rank these faculty in preference (i.e., first choice mentor in the first position). If you are interested in working with more than one faculty member in a joint or collaborative arrangement, it is important to clearly outline how this arrangement would support your areas of interest, particularly within research.

Is the GRE test required for admission? Will scores be considered if I submit them? Will it hurt my chances for admission if I do not take the GRE?

The GRE is no longer required to apply to our program. We recognize the limitations and bias of standardized tests and have chosen to take a holistic approach to determining an applicant's fit with our program. As such, within the required application materials (which can be found [here](#)) we strongly encourage students to highlight the sources of information they feel best demonstrates their abilities in the areas of writing, quantitative skills/reasoning, verbal abilities, critical thinking, and any other abilities, characteristics, or experiences they think make them a good fit for our program. Demonstrating one's abilities in these areas can



be accomplished through personal statements, test scores, writing samples, performance in coursework, letters of recommendation, conference presentations, research publications, a collection of applied experiences, etc.

In what states can I get licensed if I attend the University of Utah’s Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology? Obtaining a doctoral degree in clinical psychology does not lead directly to licensure as a psychologist. Requirements for licensure differ from state to state and can change at any time. The Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology University of Utah is accredited by the American Psychological Association. For many states, obtaining a doctoral degree from an APA-accredited doctoral program meets the *educational requirements* for licensure. Some state licensing boards require additional requirements beyond education. To determine if a particular state’s educational requirements for licensure align with our program’s curriculum, students are encouraged to review our Consumer Disclosure Webpage.. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to review the educational requirements and prerequisites for particular states in which they intend to get licensed to determine whether our program meets those requirements for licensure. Contact information for each state licensing board can be found on our Consumer Disclosure Webpage, which can be found here.

I’m interested, how do I apply?



To learn how to submit a complete application for the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Utah, please read our [Departmental application process](#). Applications for admission to the Clinical Psychology program must be submitted through the online application system.

I applied, now what?



Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted by a faculty member sometime in late December or early January. **Interviews for this year’s admissions cycle will be held via zoom, likely sometime in February.** Some faculty may contact applicants informally before this date to ask questions regarding their applications. Being contacted, or not contacted, by faculty member for such an informal discussion does not signal who will be invited for a formal interview. Please note that applicants may hear about interviews at different times during the application process. Interviews are typically held in February. Applicants not invited for an interview will be notified by the University of Utah Graduate School in early Spring. We are sorry that this process sometimes takes longer than is optimal.

As a member of the [Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology](#), the Clinical Psychology program adheres to CUDCP’s [policies and guidelines for graduate school admission, offers, and acceptance](#).

