

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. (Note: Students who enter with a Master's degree and who have completed an empirical Master's thesis research project, might also be eligible to waive the Thesis requirement). These stipulations, 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, test scores, and relevant work and experience. More information on admission requirements and the graduate application process can be found [here](#).

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 Master's degrees 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).

What are the requirements to apply?

Per the requirements of the Graduate School at the University of Utah, to be admitted and applicant must:

1. Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0, based on all undergraduate work. If the undergraduate GPA is below 3.0, a GPA will be calculated on the last 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of the undergraduate work for admission consideration;
2. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or University.

Required Application Materials Include:

1. A 2-3 page (double spaced) Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose, which should summarize your research and career goals, prior educational and work experience, and any other information you want us to know. It is important to also state which faculty members you hope to work with (we advise that you reach out to those faculty members first to see if they are taking students in the admission cycle for which you are applying). You should also include a discussion of why you want to work with those faculty members (for example, whether you have already done work in a related area and how working with that faculty member will help you achieve your career goals). Finally, you should discuss why you are interested in the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Utah specifically. It is a good idea to first check out our handbook so that you know more about our program – this will help you more clearly articulate why the U of U is right for you!
2. A curriculum vitae
3. Transcripts: you will need to include unofficial transcripts from each college or university that you have attended; official transcripts are only required if you are offered admittance to the graduate program.
4. Three Letters of Recommendation: these should be submitted by hard copy directly to the psychology department.
5. GRE Test Scores
6. GRE Advanced Subject Test- NOTE!!! This is only required if you do not have either a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in psychology- and only if you are applying to the Doctoral Program in Clinical!

Is there funding available?

Financial support is guaranteed to all students during their first four years in our graduate program, and is usually available to all student (as long as they remain in good standing) throughout their graduate training (though funding beyond the first four years is not guaranteed). The financial support is in the form of a salary paid by the department and a tuition benefit from the university. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the annual salary is \$24,000 for students in good standing. Funds may be provided in a number of different ways, but more often through university-sponsored fellowships, research and teaching assistantships (in which students assist a faculty member teaching), graduate instructorships (in which more senior students teach their own class), or research assistantships (in which students assist a faculty member with research, these are usually

funded by faculty members who have research grants). Graduate students also receive an 80% subsidy of the cost of their health insurance.

Applicants to our program are automatically considered for financial assistance and do not need to submit any additional forms to qualify. Students who are accepted into our program will receive detailed information about their sources of support when they are notified of their acceptance.

There are also several department scholarships and awards that students can apply for when in the program. More information about those can be found at: <https://psych.utah.edu/graduate/scholarships-funding.php>

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.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Answers to many commonly asked questions can be found on the Psychology Department FAQ page, which can be found [here](#).

If you have questions about Graduate School requirements, you can visit the Graduate School Admissions home page, which can be found [here](#).

For questions about the graduate program and the graduate application process, please contact Cindy White at cindy.white@psych.utah.edu or by phone at 801-585-7167.

For questions about the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, contact the Director of Clinical Training, Dr. Michael Himle, at michael.himle@utah.edu

For questions about specific mentors and research labs, you can contact any of our faculty. Their contact information can be found on both [Clinical Area webpage](#) and the [Department of Psychology webpage](#).

I applied, now what?

Applicants selected for an on-campus interview will be contacted by a faculty member sometime in late December or early January. Some faculty may contact applicants informally before this date to ask questions regarding their applications. Being contacted, or not contacted, by a 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](#).