How do I know if the University of Utah Clinical Psychology Program 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, 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 Vita, 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).

**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 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 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**.