

Admission Criteria

All candidates for admission to graduate study must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in courses for their bachelor's degree and submit all required materials prior to the application deadline of December 10. The admissions review committee consider the quality of your undergraduate work, your undergraduate grade-point average, test scores on Graduate Record Examinations (general exam required, subject test is recommended not required), quality of recommendations contained in three required letters of reference, your background in mathematics and research, your personal statement of goals and interests, your program of undergraduate studies and your performance in special parts of that program (e.g., in particularly demanding courses, in independent work, etc.). Applicants are also evaluated on their supporting documents, career goals, career promise, and research interests. Substantial additional weight is given to the quality and extent of prior research and other relevant experience. Applicants to the clinical division may also be evaluated on the basis of their prior clinical/community experience.

A candidate for admission to the Ph.D. program should ordinarily have the following preparation: a minimum of 15 hours in psychology, a laboratory course in experimental psychology, and a course in statistics. Students of high ability and students transferring to psychology from disciplines that are highly relevant to an expected area of specialization within psychology may be accepted even though they lack some of these courses. Preference is often given to students who have mathematics beyond college algebra.

One's chance of admission is neither enhanced nor hindered by prior study beyond the undergraduate degree. Students with advanced study and Master's degrees may be admitted, but most applicants do not have advanced work. Applications for admission to part-time study are not usually approved.

The candidates for admission to a Master of Science program should ordinarily have completed an undergraduate major in an applied psychology curriculum comparable to that offered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in personnel psychology, or applied measurement.

Review Process

We receive approximately 500-600 completed applications per year. Of those admitted in recent years, the average GPA was 3.79 (including those whose native language is other than English), the average GRE Verbal score was 159 (Old scale ~590) and average GRE Quantitative score was 162 (Old Scale ~775).

Because the number of admissions is limited each year, grade-point averages well in excess of 3.0, as well as generally excellent records coupled with strong recommendations, are usually needed for admission. Completed application files for all prospective students are first evaluated by a screening committee composed of faculty members of the division named as the first choice of the applicant. Applicant folders are shared with other divisions if the applicant indicates, in the personal statement or elsewhere, an equal interest in more than one division.

Final admissions decisions are based on ratings made by program faculty and current graduate students. This admissions strategy has led to first-year classes with a wide diversity of personal backgrounds, prior experience, academic and professional interests, and career goals.

English Proficiency Requirement

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit the results of an English language proficiency test. The university will accept the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to determine admission eligibility.

- The minimum total iBT score for admission (including all four sections): 79
- Minimum total iBT score for exemption from the English as a Second Language Placement Test (EPT) for admission (including all four sections): 103

The minimum IELTS (academic test) score used to determine admission eligibility:

- Minimum total score for admission: 6.5, including a minimum subscore of 6 on all four modules. Students receiving scores below 7 will be required to take the EPT for placement in English as Second Language courses.

The University of Illinois is required by state law and university policy to give teaching appointments *only* to international graduate students who have passed an English language proficiency test. Applicants have the following options to satisfy this requirement:

- Minimum score of 24 on the speaking section of the TOEFL – iBT
- Minimum score of 8 on the speaking section of the IELTS
- Continuation of minimum TSE score of 50 or a minimum SPEAK score of 50

International applicants must present documentation for one of the above-listed tests at the time of application.

Financial Aid

Research or teaching assistantships, fellowships, and traineeships are available to doctoral students in psychology. All new and continuing doctoral graduate students in good standing are guaranteed 6 years of financial aid of some form.

The form that is used to apply for admission to the University also serves as the application for financial aid. This form, together with credentials submitted with the application for admission, supplies all the information required by the committees administering the various funds. All students are considered candidates for one of the following: University Fellowships, Graduate College Fellowships (for U.S. citizens who are members of a minority group), Dallenbach Fellowships for entering or advanced graduate students engaged in basic research, research assistantships, teaching assistantships, tuition and fee waivers, and U.S. Public Health Service Traineeships in Psychology.

Stipends for fellows, assistants, and trainees vary from year to year. They are competitive with stipends available at other large universities.

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.) The Master of Arts degree is awarded as an intermediate degree to candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy degree who have satisfactorily completed 32 hours of graduate work, including an acceptable thesis.

Master of Science (M.S.) The Master of Science degree in applied personnel psychology or applied measurement is awarded as a terminal degree to candidates who, having followed an appropriate applied psychology undergraduate program, have satisfactorily completed 32 hours of graduate work in their area.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded to candidates who have completed an approved program in their areas of specialization and meet departmental and Graduate College requirements for the degree. This must include:

1. At least 96 hours of graduate work;
2. Satisfactory performance in courses or examinations dealing with quantitative methods and chosen areas of specialization;
3. A masters thesis or equivalent;
4. Appropriate courses and seminars in the area of specialization and in related and supporting areas;
5. Satisfactory performance on a doctoral qualifying examination;
6. Satisfactory performance on an oral preliminary examination; and
7. Completion of an acceptable Ph.D. thesis and satisfactory performance on an oral examination in defense of that thesis.

Credit Transfer. Credit for graduate courses taken elsewhere and not used for any previous degree may be transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The amount of credit and the particular courses qualifying for transfer are determined after a student has completed at least 8 hours of coursework at UIUC. Students holding a masters degree can have 32 hours transferred to their Ph.D. program if the department approves their previous degree. All additional hours (64) required for the Ph.D. degree must be earned in residence.

Teaching Requirement. The Department of Psychology requires Ph.D. candidates to gain teaching experience as part of their academic work. Such experience is considered a vital part of the graduate program and usually takes the form of a teaching assistantship for at least two semesters.

The Doctoral Program in Clinical/Community Psychology

The Ph.D. program in Clinical/Community psychology is designed for persons who intend to pursue careers in research on clinical or community problems. Equal facility

with both the methods of clinical practice and the contents and methodology of behavioral science are emphasized throughout. A master's level thesis/report and a doctoral dissertation must be completed. Considerable freedom is allowed in the choice of minor fields and areas of research specialization. In addition, an internship tailored to the specific interests and career goals of the student is required.

Medical Scholars Program

This program allows the student interested in medicine and psychology to earn both the M.D. and the Ph.D. in psychology while gaining unique multidisciplinary research experience and expertise.

Individually tailored programs of study can be developed within the general requirements of medical training and graduate study in psychology. Degree work will be arranged to accommodate the scheduling requirements of both programs, but the course of study in psychology will be equivalent to that of all other doctoral candidates. More details about the Medical Scholars Program and special application materials are available through the Coordinator, Medical Scholars Program, College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 190 Medical Sciences Building, 506 South Mathews, Urbana, Illinois 61801, or by reviewing information at their website:

<https://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd/>