

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY APPLICANTS

Admission Criteria and Limits on Number of Admissions

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.

Our criteria for admission include the quality of your undergraduate work, your undergraduate grade-point average for the last 60 completed hours of undergraduate work, test scores on Graduate Record Examinations (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 to the clinical division may also be evaluated on the basis of their prior clinical/community experience.

The number of admissions to graduate study in psychology is limited, so we must always deny admission to many applicants who not only meet our minimum requirements, but indeed are very excellent students. We receive approximately 400-500 completed applications per year. Of those admitted in recent years, the average GPA was 3.83 (including those whose native language is other than English), the average GRE Verbal score was 633 and average GRE Quantitative score was 701.

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 and are admitted, but most applicants do not have advanced work.

How to Complete Your Application

The deadline for receipt for all application materials is **JANUARY 2**.

In order to apply to the Graduate program in the department of psychology, you must complete two distinct application forms, both of which are available online.

1. Complete the official university application for admission to graduate study available at <http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/admissions/apply/>. Instructions are available online as part of the application. Application payment can be made by credit card. As part of completing the university application form, you will identify 3 people who will provide reference letters for you. They will be able to submit their letters online. Please contact your letter writers in advance of applying and make sure they will submit their letter before the January 2 deadline.
2. Complete the Department of Psychology Information Form available online at <http://www.psych.uiuc.edu/graduate/application/index.php>. The form includes instructions at each stage.
3. Request that official transcripts be sent from each school you have attended as an undergraduate and

each school where you may have done graduate work. Your transcripts should show all courses and grades received up to the time when you begin applying. All transcripts should be mailed to the department at the following address:

Graduate Admissions and Records Office
Department of Psychology
University of Illinois
603 East Daniel Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

4. If you have not yet taken the GRE, it takes approximately two to three weeks for ETS to forward official test score reports to the University. Your application will be considered incomplete until your scores arrive. Information about taking the GRE may be obtained at your local testing bureau, from your academic advisor, from your campus counseling center, from your Graduate College Office, or from the: Educational Testing Service (GRE), Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540 (www.gre.org). Information about local test sites and exam registration may be obtained by calling 1-800-GRE-CALL (for TTY: 1-800-529-3590). The GRE institution code for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is 1836; the department and major field code is 2016.

Admissions for Spring Semester?

We typically do not accept applications to begin study in the spring. Although some such applications are occasionally considered because of special conditions, few if any of these applicants are admitted. Students interested in the clinical/community psychology program will definitely not be admitted to begin in the spring because the fixed sequence of required courses begins each fall.

Admission to the Division of Clinical Psychology

We receive over two hundred applications for the clinical program each year and aim for a class of about 8. We place great value on prior research and clinical/community experience and on recruiting a group of students who will be diverse in their research interests, age, gender and cultural background, and other factors. The division's admission committee (which consists of the program faculty and several students in the clinical/community program) reviews every application folder for a combination of strong grades and academic credentials, relevant experience, a high quality personal statement, outstanding letters of recommendation, and goals appropriate to the opportunities available in our program and in our department as a whole. A group of about 30 applicants is then selected for further evaluation via telephone interviews and calls to the writers of their letters of recommendation. This evaluation is conducted by the faculty and student members of the admissions committee. Finally, the committee meets and selects the strongest applicants for offers of admission.

Applicants offered admission in the Clinical/Community Division will be invited to visit the campus on March 13, 2010. This is not a required visit, but a time for you to meet with current students and faculty in informal as well as informational meetings, interview, and social activities. Since we are unlikely to make admissions decisions until mid-February, you may want to keep the above date open for a possible visit.

Admission to the Division of Developmental Psychology

Applicants offered admission in the Developmental Division will be invited to visit the campus on February 26-27, 2010. This is not a required visit, but a time for you to meet with current students and faculty in informal as well as informational meetings, interviews, and social activities. Since we are unlikely to make admissions decisions until mid-February, you may want to keep the above date open for a possible visit.

Reapplication by Unsuccessful Applicants

The files of unsuccessful applicants are kept intact for one full year. If you are not offered admission, you may write next fall to the Graduate Admissions and Records Office of the Department of Psychology to determine what is required for reapplication. You still need to complete a new University application and pay the application fee.

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 options: computer/paper/iBT) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to determine admission eligibility.

- Older administrations of the TOEFL Exam (computer and paper-based) will continue to be accepted if scores are less than two years old from the first day of class of the proposed term of entry.
- 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.