Pre-Graduate Psychology

http://www.pacificu.edu/sgp

The School of Graduate Psychology seeks students with both academic aptitude and personal qualities that will enable them to develop personally and professionally into effective psychologists, applied researchers, and therapists. SGP educates empirically-informed psychological professionals who may choose research, practice, or other health service careers. SGP is an academic community that fosters collaborative inquiry, encouraging faculty and students to work together on program development, clinical research, and governance. Programs and individuals at SGP emphasize and are committed to psychologically-informed work that is relevant to diverse populations at the individual, family, group, and community levels.

A personal interview is required for all finalists who apply to any program.

Clinical Psychology PsyD Program

Admission criteria:

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university. A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.4 during the last 2 years is desirable.
- The General Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within 5 years of application. Applicants with a graduate degree may apply for a waiver of the GRE requirement.
  - The school code for Pacific University is R4601; there is no department code.
  - The Psychology Subject Test is not required.
- A strong undergraduate background in psychology. Applicants do not need to have majored in psychology.
  - One math-based statistics course is required.
  - Abnormal Psychology is required.
- In addition, 2 of the following 6 courses are required as preparation for work at the graduate level:
  - Introduction to Psychology
  - Personality Theory
  - Developmental Psychology
  - Experimental Psychology
  - Physiological Psychology
  - Social Psychology

Applicants may be admitted with pre-requisite courses in progress. All prerequisite courses must be completed with passing grades of “B” or higher before an admitted student can matriculate into the program, however.
Additional criteria that make applicants more successful:

- Clinical experience - Applicants who have worked with mental health populations through volunteer or work efforts often have a better idea of what it is needed to become a psychologist.
- Research experience - Applicants who have aided others in research data collection, data entry, and data analysis or who have completed their own projects are competitive candidates for admission.
- Good interpersonal skills - Applicants who can engage in professional, appropriate conduct with peers, faculty, and others are well regarded. Comfort with public speaking is also helpful as the work of graduate school and being a psychologist involves being able to speak to various groups in public settings.

Clinical Psychology PhD Program

Admission criteria:

- Satisfactory completion of a bachelor's degree (GPA of at least 3.4 is desirable)
- A strong undergraduate background in psychology. Applicants do not need to have majored in psychology; however, they are required to have taken and passed the following three courses with a grade of B or better:
  - One course in a math-based statistics course.
  - A psychology methodology course.
  - Abnormal Psychology.
- The following courses are recommended as preparation for work at the PhD level:
  - Introduction to Psychology
  - Personality Theory
  - Developmental Psychology
  - Experimental Psychology
  - Physiological Psychology
  - Social Psychology

Applicants may be admitted with pre-requisite courses in progress. All prerequisite courses must be completed with passing grades of “B” or higher before an admitted student can matriculate into the program. Other required materials include:

- General Graduate Record Examination
  - Official GRE scores. Applicants with a graduate degree may apply for a waiver of the GRE requirement; however, we encourage taking and submitting your GRE scores.
  - The General Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must be taken within 5 years prior to application.
  - The school code for Pacific University is R4601; there is no department code.
The Psychology Subject Test is not required.

- Applicants are expected to have had previous research experience. Examples of this include completion of an empirical honors thesis, assisting a professor in her/his research lab, or completing a research internship. Applicants must be clear about their commitment to the research aspect of clinical psychology in their application materials.

Applied Psychological Science M.S. or M.A. Program

Admissions decisions are based on many factors:

- Strength and breadth of academic record
- A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a four-point scale is desired. Those who have less than a 3.0 undergraduate GPA, but show other evidence of high potential are encouraged to apply. (Applicants may demonstrate their academic potential by taking the Graduate Record Exam, however the GRE is not required)
- Prerequisite courses: students must have passed with a “C” or better a college-level Introductory Psychology Course and a Statistics course.
- Recommended courses: Psychology, particularly physiological psychology, social psychology, cognition, learning, personality theory, research methods and psychometrics
- Applicants may be admitted with prerequisite courses in progress. However, all prerequisite courses must be completed with passing grades of “C” or higher before matriculation into the program.
- Conferral of a bachelor's degree is required prior to matriculating into the Applied Psychological Science program.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to have some experience in mental health, human services, organizational, human resources, or research environments.

Students who do not have the requisite GPA’s, scores, or background but who show exceptional promise will be considered.

- Applied and research experience
- Essay responses
- Strength of letters of evaluation
- Content of application forms and the care with which they have been prepared
- Personal interview

Questions concerning admission to the School of Graduate Psychology doctoral programs should be directed to 503-352-7226. For the Applied Psychological Science program questions please call 503-352-7229.