



CSUDH
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DOMINGUEZ HILLS

So you're wondering...

Which Psychology Graduate Program is Right for Me?

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REAL QUESTION:

**What Do
You Want to
Be When
You Grow
Up?**



How About Clinical Work?

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Private practice
- Nonprofits
- **Possible Degrees:**
 - Psychiatrist (M.D.)
 - Clinical/Counseling Psychologist (Ph.D., Psy.D.)
 - Social Worker (M.S.W.)
 - Marriage and Family Therapy (M.F.T.)
 - Nursing (psychiatric R.N.)
 - Child Life Specialist
 - M.P.H. (sometimes)



How About A Researcher?

- University & hospital settings (includes clinical research)
- Public/non-profit/government institutions
- Private sector (e.g., marketing research)

- **Possible Degrees:**
 - Psychiatrist (M.D.)
 - Ph.D. in Psychology, Public Health, or Social Work
 - Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)
 - Doctorate of Public Health (Dr.Ph.)
 - Sometimes master's level dependent on position (e.g., study coordinator or research associate positions- M.A./M.S. in psychology, M.P.H.)



How About Education?

- K-12 Schools
- Universities
- Community Colleges

- **Possible Degrees:**
 - School Psychologist: Ph.D., Ed.D
 - Psychologist (Ph.D.)
 - Sometimes: M.S./M.A./M.Ed.



- Efficient in terms of **time** & **money** investment
 - Sometimes leads to **the same career**
- **Practice Degrees**
 - **M.S.W. *preferred degree in most clinical settings, flexible, transportable**
 - Counseling- M.F.T., school psychology
 - Licensure exams
 - Specialties: Clinical Practice management, Child Life Specialist, etc.
- **Research Degrees**
 - Master's in psychology (M.A.)
 - Neuropsych testing
 - Research skills
 - Specialties: IRB issues, Clinical Trials oversight, Project management, etc.



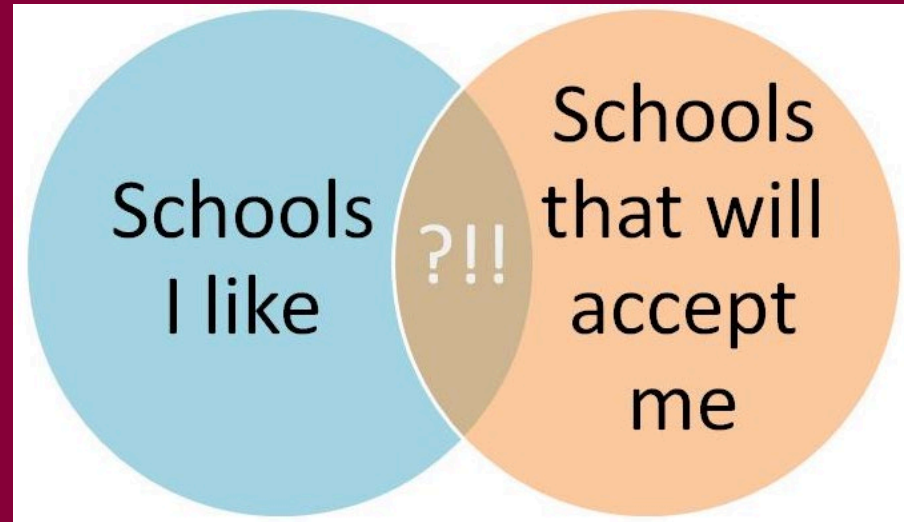
Consider a Master's

If you're sure you want your Ph.D. in Psychology

- Experimental Psychology (Ph.D)
 - Research/Academic careers
- Clinical/Counseling Psychology
 - Clinical Ph.D.
 - Clinical Scientist vs Scientist-Practitioner
 - Counseling Ph.D
 - Licensure exams
 - Psy.D.
 - Pay attention to cost...
- Don't need your master's



PREPARING TO APPLY!



- What schools offer the degree I want?
- What schools offer the specialization I want, and/or have faculty with whom I want to work?
 - **Match is key!**
 - Are faculty taking students?
- What does it take to get in?
 - Research
 - Clinical experience
 - How can I improve my qualifications?

Identifying Schools

- Internet Search
- Professional Associations websites
- American Psychological Association of Grad Students (APAGS)
- Advising services at CSUDH/student clubs
- Ask the faculty!
- PsycINFO, PubMed (look at the literature to find faculty with your interests!)
- Avoid “for-profit” and online degree programs (may have difficulty with employment after all your hard work!)



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Training

Will I learn what I want to for my career?)

Information on curriculum, practicum (clinical training, if applicable), and other opportunities is on program websites

Job Outcomes

Do students become employed upon graduation?

Info MIGHT be on program websites

Money

Working a separate job is not feasible during doctoral work.

You *can* get PAID to go to school- 20 hrs/wk research or teaching assistantship, tuition waver, health insurance... etc.

Expenses



Remember, if you are going to school “full time” then you should expect to be completed with your degree in 2-3 years for a master’s degree (versus 4-7 for doctoral...).

For a practice-based degree that will culminate in licensure, this is the best bang for your buck!

BEWARE FOR-PROFIT PROGRAMS!

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Loma Linda- “Most students in the department utilize federal (e.g., Stafford) and/or private loans to fund the majority of costs associated with graduate school.”

EXPECTED COST OF ATTENDANCE: PHD

YEAR OF PROGRAM	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Tuition	\$32,097	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$38,906	\$3,516
Fees	\$2,925	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$20
Books & Supplies	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	N/A

... versus USC

Graduate Funding Opportunities

Students admitted into the PhD program are provided with a graduate support package for a five-year period. Each student receives an annual stipend of \$34,000, 36 units of tuition paid per year, and year-round health and dental insurance. The graduate support package typically provides two years of fellowship to allow students to focus full-time on their coursework, and three years of funding as a teaching or research assistant where they develop additional professional skills. In rare cases, our faculty may fund students with a research assistantship support package that includes two years of research assistantship and three years of teaching assistantship.



TODD
CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!