

Guide to Graduate School Preparation and the Admissions Process

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Check List of Needed Materials

- Application from School
- Application for Program
- GRE Scores
- Letters of Recommendation
- Letter/Statement of Intent
- Official Transcript
- Vita/Resume
- Research paper

The purpose of completing this form is for you to provide extensive information that the faculty can use to write letters of recommendation that are sufficiently detailed to optimize the match between your abilities, motivation, and education and the program/work environment that you are considering.

1. Name: _____
2. This recommendation is for: (circle one): graduate school is psychology: (Master's, Ph.D., Psy.D.), medical school, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, MSW, other higher education: (specify) _____ or a job at _____ doing what? _____
3. Undergraduate GPA: Overall _____ Psychology GPA _____

4. Scores on GRE (report scores for each time you have taken them)

	Date of Test:	Verbal	Quantitative	Writing	Analytical
Last					
2					
3					

5. List complete courses and grades in this psychology program:

Core:	Grade:
Psyc 101	_____
Math 111	_____
Research Methods (226)	_____
Statistics (227)	_____
Abnormal (410)	_____
Developmental (420)	_____
Social (430)	_____
Personality (440)	_____
Learning (400)	_____
Cognitive (405)	_____
Sensation/Perception (450)	_____
Physiological (460)	_____

Other Psychology course completed:	Grade:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. Have you had research experience in psychology? Please describe specific circumstances.
7. What are your career goals? Be as specific as possible. (Do not say, "I really don't know" if you are asking for letters of recommendation.)

8. How long have you had these goals?
9. What scholarships have you received? How much aid did they provide each year?
10. What applied/work experience have you had (paid or volunteer) related to psychology or your career goals? Please give dates.
11. What research have you presented at conferences? (Include title; list other authors, date of conference name and location)
12. Articles published or submitted for publication: (include title; list other authors if any, and journal information). Are you or your professors planning to submit your research for publication? What else is needed?
13. What types of extracurricular activities have you engaged in while at USC?? Identify all groups, sports, volunteer activities, psychology honors programs, religious groups, etc. What do these activities tell the faculty about you (such as leadership skills, high social skills, time-allocation skills, religious commitment, etc.)?

14. By requesting the faculty to write letters on your behalf, you must accept the responsibility of letting us know promptly which schools accepted you, which didn't, and any other results of the application process.

Signature: _____ Who is your advisor? _____

Please complete this information below. As you ask for letters of recommendation, you should include any forms, etc., and a stamped addressed envelope for each letter written.

Name of School	Program (e.g. Clinical Ph.D.)	Due Date	Form Provided (Yes or No)	Return to you or the school?
1.				
Why are you applying to this school? Who do you want to work with? Give specifics to demonstrate that you know all about this school				
2.				
Why are you applying to this school? Who do you want to work with? Give specifics to demonstrate that you know all about this school.				
3.				
Why are you applying to this school? Who do you want to work with? Give specifics to demonstrate that you know all about this school.				
4.				
Why are you applying to this school? Who do you want to work with? Give specifics to demonstrate that you know all about this school.				
5.				
Why are you applying to this school? Who do you want to work with? Give specifics to demonstrate that you know all about this school.				

Preparing for an Interview

1. Once you have been contacted for an interview, notify your professors
2. Ask 1-4 professors to do a mock interview with you.
3. Make sure that you are well informed about the program and the school
*If you are not knowledgeable about the program, then why are you applying for the program?
4. Dress appropriately
*You only get one first impression... make it count
5. Be confident when being interviewed
*Often times interviewers will try to catch you off-guard to see how you handle pressure.
6. Bring a copy of your portfolio with you just in case
7. At the end of the interview, they will ask you if you have any questions for them, ASK QUESTIONS!!!!!!
*Don't be afraid to ask questions... this shows that you are considering them.
8. After the interview, write each of your interviewers a Thank You note.

Possible Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to go to _____ school?
2. What was the most appealing aspect of our program?
3. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
4. What are your strongest aspects?
5. What are your weaknesses?
6. How would you benefit this program?
7. What area of research are you interested in?
8. Who is the most influential person in your life?
9. If you could meet anyone past or present, who would it be and why?

Good Questions to Ask

1. What do you think is the program's weakest point?
2. What do you think is the program's strongest point?
3. What would be the "selling point" to a student that was deciding between this institution and another?
4. What are your visions for your students?
5. What are your visions for this program in future years?