

---

# Psychology

## Graduate School Information

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### **Good Reference Book Available at CMC Career Center:**

- Graduate Study in Psychology (2008) American Psychological Association
- 

#### **GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION QUESTIONS**

##### **What is required to gain admission into graduate school?**

Entry into graduate school depends on many factors, but the most critical are: a) academic record (e.g., GPA of at least 3.2, science-oriented, rigorous classes, depending on the program); b) research experience; c) clinical internship experience; d) letters of recommendation (e.g., from professors who know you well); e) GRE scores (general and/or psychology subject test, depending on the program); f) the strength of your personal statement or essay that indicates serious commitment; g) the match between you and the department; and h) awards and honors (e.g., academic honors, research thesis, scholarships).

##### **Do I need to have research experience to get into graduate school?**

Yes, in almost all cases research experience will make your application stronger and some programs expect you to have had research experience. Research experience is critical for gaining entry into most doctoral-level (e.g., Ph.D., Psy D) and most masters-level (e.g., M.A.) graduate programs. Some masters-level programs may place less emphasis on research because this is not part of the training they offer (e.g., Masters in Social Work, or specialized Counseling programs, such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation). However, no matter what program you apply to, research experience is almost always viewed favorably because it implies that you have experience in organizing information and knowing how to critically analyze it.

##### **Do all graduate programs have the same requirements and admission standards?**

No. Graduate programs vary in their emphasis, requirements, and admission standards. For example, different programs specialize in different kinds of graduate training (e.g., child clinical versus adult clinical, or not all programs offer degrees in all areas of psychology). The top-rated programs have higher requirements and are most competitive in terms of the number and higher quality of students who are accepted out of those who apply. Finally, some programs may require just the GRE, while others request additional standardized tests,

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

such as the GRE psychology subject test, as well as the MAT (Miller Analogies Test). Social Work programs typically do not require the GRE. To find out what specific programs require and how to contact them for additional information, search for this information on the internet or consult one of the many published sources (e.g., guidebook by the American Psychological Association) that list specific information about each program (e.g., the average and minimum requirements for GPA and GRE scores, the training programs that are available, ratio of numbers of students who applied to those that were accepted). A list of guidebooks and internet web sites appear at the end of this document.

### **What are the difference between doctoral and masters graduate programs and what can I do with either degree?**

Masters programs usually require 2-3 years of courses and training, and it is up to the individual programs to determine whether an empirical research thesis is required for the degree. This and other requirements will differ depending on the focus of the program (e.g., masters in social work versus masters in experimental psychology). It is possible to be a private practice psychotherapist or counselor with a master's degree, but the prestige and earning potential will be lower compared to that of a psychotherapist with a doctoral degree. Doctoral degrees typically take an average of 5 to 7 years to complete, not including a required one-year internship for clinical students. Unlike MA programs, often Ph.D. programs pay your tuition and will offer you a TA or an RA job. Almost doctoral programs require empirical research training (but see section on Psy.D. degree). In most cases, doctoral degree recipients have more employment opportunities than master's degree recipients and their earning potential is greater. However, there may be some exceptions in the future depending on trends in health care reimbursement policies, because doctoral-level psychologists cost more than do masters-level psychologists (e.g., M.A. –level therapists may be in greater demand than Ph.D. –level therapists because the insurance companies find they cost less to reimburse for mental health services). In order to teach at the college-level a doctoral degree is usually required, although some two-year community colleges hire instructors with Masters degrees.

### **What is the best strategy for selecting a graduate program and for surviving the application process?**

**Plan- Getting organized early.** The more organized you are, the more smoothly the process of applying to graduate programs will go. Approximately one year before you plan to enroll in a graduate program you should begin to have an idea of the types of graduate programs you are interested in. If you don't know what type of graduate program you are interested in, then you are not ready to apply. You should speak with professors and graduate students about the different types of programs that exist and programs they can suggest to you. You should also look at published guidebooks to graduate programs, including one published by the American Psychological Association (APA) that lists information about graduate programs and every APA-approved clinical graduate program, including their address, a list of current faculty, admission recruitments, and deadline

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

dates. You can also access information about psychology graduate programs from the Internet.

**List.** Generate a list of schools and programs that you would like to learn more about and send each a postcard with your return address, requesting they send you an application. You will learn much about the program from the application materials they send.

**Fees.** You need to determine how many schools you can afford to apply to since application fees range from \$25 to \$100 each. If you apply to 12 graduate programs, you can expect to spend between \$800 - \$1500 by the time you are done (this includes postage, photocopying, transcripts, phone calls, stationary, application and GRE (in 2008, \$115 for general test, \$130 for specialty area test). You should take the GREs at least 6 months before your application deadlines and ask at least three professors who know you well for letters of recommendation.

**Requesting letters of recommendation.** It is best if you ask psychology professors for letters, and you can include an additional letter from an internship supervisor. At this point in the process some people might try to arrange visits to the programs they are interested in (however, some programs permit interviews by invitations only). You might also decide to look up the research interests of the faculty. Psych Info, found in most university libraries (<http://libraries.claremont.edu/>), is a good resource for finding article abstracts written by faculty who you think you might be interested in working with. You can also write to professors to request copies of their articles to learn more about whether you want to work with them on their research. Once you narrow down your list of potential programs, depending upon how competitive you are, you might decide upon a tiered strategy where you apply to the very top programs you are interested in and then some that are less competitive but ones you would be willing to attend as a backup.

**Timeline and tasks (letters, personal statement writing, applications).** At this point, you should create a filing system with a folder for each application that clearly marks the deadline date for the application. You should give each of your letter writers **at least** 3 weeks prior to when the letters are due so they can meet your deadline. To make their job easier, you should provide them with already-addressed and stamped envelopes, the due date marked in pencil on the back of the envelopes, and any forms required by the program that must be completed by your reference (if any). You should ask a professor or academic advisor to read over your personal statement or essay so they can provide you with feedback to help you write the best statement you can. It is extremely important that you complete the application form on time and as neatly as possible. Members of admissions committees will not spend their time on incomplete applications or applications that are sloppy and difficult to read. After you put all your applications in the mail, you should sit back and relax. Most programs do

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

not review applications until February and begin to make offers in March. If at all possible, you should try to set up a visit to schools that extend an offer of admission or request that you complete an interview.

### **What is the GRE and the GRE subject test, when are these tests offered, and what can I do to be prepared?**

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a standardized test that assesses aptitude, much like the SAT or ACT you took for college admission. The GRE is administered by the ETS (Educational Testing Service) and includes a general test with three parts, Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytic. Separate subject tests in various disciplines are also administered as a separate test (e.g., psychology, history). Almost all graduate programs will require that you take the GRE general test but not all require the psychology subject test. The GRE is moving from a paper and pencil administration that was offered several times a year, to an on-line computerized administration that may be taken at almost any time. Although the price is subject to change, the current charge to take the GRE is \$84.00. You have several options for test preparation. Most bookstores sell preparation guidebooks that include sample tests, test-taking tips and some even include a CD-ROM that permits you to practice taking the test on your own PC. Prep courses are also available for a fee that can average over \$1,100-\$1200 (e.g., Stanley Kaplan classroom or online, Princeton Review). No matter which option you choose, you will need to spend time preparing for the exam by learning vocabulary words, solving analytic problems, and brushing up on your quantitative skills. For the GRE subject test, some find taking a course in the History and Systems of Psychology and rereading a comprehensive introductory psychology text to be very helpful. Do not be fooled into thinking that you can simply sit down and take this test without advanced preparation. For more information, visit the GRE information site at Educational Testing Service ([www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org) or <http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnnextoid=ebf42d3631df4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=ca8946f1674f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD> or call 1-866-473-4373.

### **How do I find an advisor in graduate school to work with? How do I know what specifically I am interested in?**

To help develop your interests, start reading articles in psychology and volunteer to work in labs of faculty at your college.

1) Refine your interests. To find articles that match your interests and subsequently find out where the researchers are that are doing this work, start with Psych Info or PubMed that are databases easily accessed from the library system at the Claremont Colleges (<http://libraries.claremont.edu>). Go the database and enter in some key words that describe your interests (e.g., reading problems in children). Read the titles of the articles that come up. Do they interest you? If so, click on the title and then read the abstract. Does the paper still interest you? If so, get the article. Read it and see if you are still interested

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

in it. Often you can find other researchers doing related work by either clicking on Related Articles in PubMed or refining your search.

2) Find researchers. If you find some articles that interest you, go to the author's web site. You can often Google the author's name or get to the faculty member by going to the university and the department and looking for the author under faculty lists. See if the author is doing related work. Are the articles on line on the web site? Also, does that faculty member have graduate students? What kind of work are they doing? If the faculty member is currently conducting research on your area of interest and that person has students working on similar projects, you might want to contact that person.

3) Contact researchers. If you have read the work of the person you want to work with, you might want to then contact that person. Email that person and tell them why you are writing them and what in particular is interesting to you about their work. Ask if they are accepting graduate students and if so, whether they have 15 min to talk with you sometime.

### **If my ultimate goal is to work as a psychotherapist, are Ph.D. or Psy.D. programs in clinical psychology my only option?**

No. In most states a person who earns a Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree from a graduate program approved by the American Psychological Association can legally call themselves a "psychologist." To be a therapist or counselor, one may receive masters-level training in social work (MSW or LCSW, licensed clinical social worker), counseling psychology or specialized programs of study (e.g., alcohol/drug counseling, marital-family counseling, pastoral counseling, art therapy).

### **What are the differences among Clinical Psychology (Ph.D.), Professional Psychology (Psy.D.), and Counseling Psychology (Ed.D. or Ph.D.) graduate programs?**

The Clinical psychology program is part of an academic department of psychology at a university that awards a Ph.D. degree and provides academic/scientific training in psychology that typically includes training in therapy, research in the form of an empirical master's thesis and dissertation, and a one-year clinical internship. Schools of Professional Psychology may stand-alone or be part of a university or medical school which awards a Psy.D. degree and provides professional training in psychology that focuses on therapy, typically does not require empirical research, but includes a theoretical dissertation, and a one-year clinical internship. Recipients of the Ph.D. degree are permitted the most flexibility in terms of employment, ranging from a private-practice clinician or a staff psychologist to a university professor, while recipients of the Psy.D. degree are more likely to be employed as private-practice clinicians or staff psychologists. Many Ph.D. programs will offer students financial aid in the form of a teaching assistantship or research assistantship and/or tuition waiver. These options are less likely in Psy.D. programs, because faculty typically do not have research grants that provide graduate student support or offer undergraduate courses that require teaching assistants. Counseling Psychology

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

programs often fit between clinical and professional psychology programs. Counseling psychology programs can be found in either psychology departments (Ph.D.) or in education departments (Ed. D. or Ph.D.). Although they do focus on therapy, some programs do require research training as well.

### **What are the differences among a psychologist, psychiatrist, and psychoanalyst, especially in terms of the required training?**

Psychologists hold a Ph. D. or Psy D. degree. Psychiatry is a sub-field in medicine that requires a background in the natural sciences (e.g., at least a year of physics, calculus, biology, and chemistry, including organic) and an M.D. degree from a medical school. Psychiatrists can prescribe drugs for treatment, while a psychologist may not. A psychoanalyst receives analytic training at a certified Institute of psychoanalysis and holds either a professional degree (e.g., MD, Ph.D., or Psy. D.) or may be a lay analyst with no advanced degree, although the later is rare; all psychoanalysts must undergo analysis as part of their training.

### **What is the competition like for getting admitted into graduate school?**

Your chances of being accepted into a graduate program depend on a number of factors and answers to the following questions.

- 1) First, how competitive are you in terms of your academic record, research experience, and test performance? The better your record of achievement and clarity of your goals, the more likely you will be accepted into graduate school.
- 2) Second, how competitive is the type of program you are applying to? Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology at well-respected universities are the most competitive programs—there may be over 300 applicants for only 8-10 available positions per academic year. Professional Psychology and Counseling Psychology doctoral programs are less competitive because they may accept more students and accept students who are more likely to prove their own financial support. Masters programs, including social work, counseling, general, psychology, and specialty programs are less competitive than doctoral programs, but this depends on the reputation of the program and the number of available training programs in that area (e.g., competition is relatively high for art therapy masters programs because they are relatively few in number).
- 3) An important consideration for maximizing the chances that you will be accepted into graduate program is to carefully select programs that seem commensurate with your ability and record of achievement.

### **What financial costs are associated with attending graduate school?**

The costs vary widely depending on the type of program you apply to and whether financial assistance is provided in either the form of a tuition waiver, a monthly stipend from a teaching assistantship or research assistantship, or a combination of both. Traditionally, the greatest source of aid comes from Ph.D. programs at research universities where faculty research grants can provide

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

graduate students with financial support. Ph.D. programs often offer tuition waivers and either a teaching assistantship (TA) or a research assistantship (RA) to offer a *modest* salary. Masters programs usually require you to pay tuition and do not offer employment.

Traditionally, Psy.D. programs have not been able to offer financial assistance because faculty typically focus more on clinical practice than research. Students can also secure personal, low-interest student loans as well as apply for federal (e.g., NSF) and local scholarships (e.g., Colorado Scholar). Once accepted, students should consult the campus Grants Office to learn whether there are research grants that would provide a stipend, tuition, and funds to support masters and doctoral-level research.

### **What personal benefits and costs are associated with attending graduate school?**

There are many benefits, including in-depth study of topics that are of great interest to you, working with bright interesting people, the cultural and intellectual stimulation of a university environment, the discovery of new knowledge, helping people, and the opportunity to gain skills and expertise in preparation for a professional career. There are also some potential costs, which vary in degree from individual to individual depending upon the seriousness of one's commitment to graduate training, level of motivation, and ability to delay gratification. For example, being a graduate student does not involve "set" hours. Students must often put in long hours in the evenings and on weekends in the laboratory and library that extend well beyond their hours spent in class. The amount of time required for in-depth study can limit the amount of time that is left for recreation and personal activities. Graduate school requires a major time commitment that limits students from earning money through off-campus jobs. Students who receive financial assistance often feel they are on a tight budget and cannot afford luxuries, especially when they must buy books that are required for their training and later professional work. Although most students do not take classes in the summer, they rarely take the complete summer off for vacations, because this time is spent on research and clinical training. Although there are costs, most graduate students feel that the benefits far outweigh the costs.

### **What are some of the different subspecialty areas of psychology?**

Clinical psychologists assess and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. These range from short-term crises, such as difficulties resulting from adolescent rebellion to more severe, chronic conditions such as schizophrenia. Some clinical psychologists treat specific problems exclusively, such as phobias or clinical depression. Others focus on specific populations: youngsters, ethnic minority groups, gays and lesbians, and the elderly, for instance.

Counseling psychologists help people to accommodate to change or to make changes in their lifestyle. For example, they provide vocational and career assessment and guidance or help someone come to terms with the death of a

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

loved one. They help students adjust to college, and people to stop smoking or overeating. They also consult with physicians on physical problems that have underlying psychological causes.

Developmental psychologists study the psychological development of the human being that takes place throughout life.

Educational psychologists concentrate on how effective teaching and learning takes place

Engineering psychologists conduct research on how people work best with machines.

Forensic psychologists apply psychological principles to legal issues.

Health psychologists are interested in how biological, psychological, and social factors affect health and illness.

Industrial/organizational psychologists apply psychological principles and research methods to the work place in the interest of improving productivity and quality of work life.

Leadership/organizational behavior psychologist work in businesses to help foster self-awareness, facilitate group bonding and develop leadership skills.

Neuropsychologists explore the relationships between brain systems and behavior

Cognitive psychologists study how people acquire and process information, including such processes as perception, memory, and decision-making.

Cognitive/Social/Developmental/Clinical Neuroscientists combine neuropsychology, neurology and cognitive/social psychology to understand how the brain produces complex behaviors.

Quantitative and measurement psychologists focus on methods and techniques for acquiring and analyzing psychological data.

Rehabilitation psychologists work with stroke and accident victims, people with mental retardation, and those with developmental disabilities caused by such conditions as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism.

School psychologists work directly with public and private schools to assess student intellectual and emotional functioning and to help with school-related problems.

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

Social psychologists work directly with public and private schools to assess student intellectual and emotional functioning and to help with school-related problems.

Sports psychologists help athletes refine their focus on competitive goals, become more motivated, and learn to deal with the anxiety and fear of failure that often accompany competition.

### **What is graduate school like and how do I know if it is for me?**

Graduate school requires your total and sustained commitment and focus because you are receiving advanced training in a specific academic area. For most Ph.D. programs you will spend your time taking advanced seminars in content (e.g., cognitive proseminar) and methodology (e.g., statistical inference), working in a research lab, and working as either a teaching assistant or research assistant. For clinical programs, you can add clinical training to the list of activities. You may also be required to sit on departmental committees and be engaged in other departmental citizenship duties. In addition to reading approximately 200 pages a week for your courses, you will be involved in all phases of research, including your own masters thesis and doctoral dissertation. Most graduate programs have comprehensive exam requirements and expect their students to make sufficient progress in their course of study in order to remain in good standing in the program. Most graduate programs have comprehensive exam requirements and expect their students to make sufficient progress in their course of study in order to remain in good standing in the program. Most graduate students are full-time students, but some may pick up additional money from intermittent work (e.g., as GRE prep course instructors). You will thrive in graduate school if you have a high level of curiosity, analytical orientation, a strong drive to become an expert in a particular area of psychology, and you can tolerate ambiguity, frustration, and the ability to delay gratification. Being a graduate student means making a commitment to spend time outside of your classes to read, think, engage in discussion with graduate student colleagues and research supervisors, analyze, and critically evaluate research and theory in your areas of interest. If you don't enjoy studying and school-related work now (e.g., reading and writing papers), then you are not likely to enjoy graduate training.

### **What is the employment outlook for psychologists?**

The United States Department of Labor tracks and projects the employment outlook for all careers. You can gain access to this information by visiting the Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics web sites (see next page for site URLs). Some trends you might want to explore include: a) is the market saturated with private practice therapists and how do HMO and insurance company reimbursement policies affect the ability of private practice therapists to earn a living?; b) is there an increasing need for school psychologists since the schools are assuming a bigger role in dealing with children's psychological problems?; c) is there an increasing need for behavioral specialists who

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

understand brain-behavior relations to work with the survivors of brain injury?; d) does the increasing need for quality child care signal increasing opportunities for psychologists who want to work with children?; and e) what role can psychologists play in the business world, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations? In general, the Department of Labor indicates that the career outlook for doctoral-level psychologists is projected to grow at a rate of 30% between now and the year 2011. Interestingly, the rate of psychologists who work at academic institutions has decreased over the years by about a third and is projected to continue to do so. This means that there are more and varied employment opportunities for doctoral-level psychologists who are working in private industry, for the government, and in non-profit organizations.

**I am not interested in research and graduate school. What are my immediate career and employment options with a B.S./B.A. in psychology at the time of graduation?**

The career that you can enter upon graduation with an undergraduate degree in psychology depends on many factors, including your interests and the unique combination of major and minor areas of specialization in your undergraduate education. There is almost no job or career that would not benefit from a background in understanding human behavior and the analytic skills that you acquire from an undergraduate major in psychology. If you are sure that you do not want to attend graduate school immediately upon graduation and would like to enter into a career, you need to begin an exploration of possible careers at least one year before you graduate. Career exploration takes time and careful research, but is worth the effort. The more time you spend exploring the possible careers, the more options you will create for yourself to pursue at graduation. The first step is to visit CMC's Career Counseling Center. The Career Center (CMC: 909-607-7038; Heggblade Center) contains a career library that will permit you to browse through possible career titles, their employment outlook, salary potential, and required training. The Career Center can also assist you in resume preparation and job interviewing skills. Another strategy is to visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, and America's Job Bank Internet web sites to obtain current descriptions and other information about careers in psychology and fields related to psychology (addresses for these sites are included in a later section of this document). During your career exploration, you may want to seek out an individual in that career to shadow for a day as a way to learn more about a typical day on the job. You might also want to inquire about opportunities to complete an internship in that field. Contact the Career Center's Internship Director for assistance (607-7038) or visit <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/csc/>.

Some students have combined their major and minor areas of study to best prepare for careers or graduate programs outside of psychology (e.g., masters in health administration, human resources, or business). For example, students with a background in psychology and communications have pursued public relations work and industrial training and education. Students with a background

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

in psychology and education have had careers in childcare work, childcare administration, recreational education or therapy, or classroom teaching. A major in psychology with a business minor has led to successful and lucrative careers in marketing, personnel management, sales, sport/celebrity representation, and labor relations. A more recent focus has been on psychology and either public affairs or political science, which can lead to careers in advocacy, human resources, government, or law. Additional examples include students with a background in psychology and sociology who have pursued work in criminology, forensic psychology, profiling, and positions in the correctional system. Students have also combined psychology with the sciences. For example, students with a combination of psychology and biology have worked as physical therapists, rehabilitation therapists, or personal trainers. Students with a background in computer science and psychology have pursued work in the computer software industry, computer education and training, and human-machine interaction.

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

## Preparing Early for Graduate Study in Psychology

### 1. Join Honors Societies, especially Psi Chi.

- Psi Chi is the national honors society in psychology. It holds regular meetings and often schedules trips to mental health facilities as well as local conferences and talks. At CMC, Psi Chi has a web page off the Psychology web page that has membership information as well as important information for how to apply to graduate school, etc. Please contact the faculty Psi Chi advisor or the student who is president of Psi Chi for more information.

### 2. Attend Conferences and Present.

- Consider attending a local, state, or regional psychology conference. Also, attend any talks, colloquia, or symposia sponsored by your psychology department, Kravis institute, Claremont Graduate University, or neuroscience programs. At such meetings, you will have opportunity to hear established researchers and practitioners in the field.
- Become a student affiliate of APS (American Society for Psychological Science) or APA (American Psychological Association). You should also look into the WPA (Western Psychological Association). Annual dues for undergraduate student affiliates are approximately \$35.

### 3. Read and Plan

- Begin reading books on graduate study (e.g., APA's Graduate Study In Psychology) and examining university department websites for information on graduate schools. Examine carefully the admission requirements of programs that interest you. Note especially the average GPA and Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores of admitted students.
- Begin reading the APA Monitor and the APS Observer (available in your department or library) which include job listings for those with advanced degrees as well as the most recent developments in the discipline.
- Register and begin preparing for taking the GRE. The GRE measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. The GRE Subject Test in Psychology gauges undergraduate achievement (factual knowledge) in the discipline.

### 4. Get Involved in Research

- In possible, become actively involved as an undergraduate research assistant. Search out faculty members who share your research interests!
- Also, look for summer research internships in laboratories or in companies that are related to your research interests.

### Recommended book (Q&A format, easy to read):

Buskist, W., & Sherburne, TR. (1996). *Preparing for graduate study in psychology: 101 questions and answers*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

## Internet Web Sites: Psychology Career and Graduate School Information

Bureau of Labor Statistics Home Page

<http://www.bls.gov/>

America's Job Bank

<http://www.jobbankinfo.org/>

Psychologists, Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos056.htm>

Pursuing Careers in Psychology, University of N. Iowa

<http://www.uni.edu/walsh/linda1.html>

Preparing for Graduate School in Psychology, University of Waterloo

[http://www.psychology.uwaterloo.ca/gradprog/preparation/grad\\_school\\_in\\_psych.html](http://www.psychology.uwaterloo.ca/gradprog/preparation/grad_school_in_psych.html)

Books on Graduate School for Psychology Majors

<http://www.psywww.com/careers/gradbook.htm>

APA Guide for Preparing for Getting into Graduate School

<http://www.apa.org/ed/getin.html>

APA Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association

<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/doctoral.html>

Finding Psychology and Related Departments on the Internet, Hanover College

<http://psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/other.html>

A Career Decision Tree for Psychology, Hanover College

<http://psych.hanover.edu/handbook/career2.html>

Graduate Schools and Careers in Psychology

<http://www.rider.edu/~suler/gradschl.html>

Frequently Asked Questions, Education and Training in Psychology, American Psychological Association

<http://www.apa.org/ed/faq.html>

Basic Information about Psychology as a Career, University of Oklahoma

<http://www.oklahoma.net/~jnichols/careers.html>

Social Psychology Career Network

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm>

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.

## **Published Sources: Guidebooks to Graduate School, Careers, and GRE Preparation**

### **Guidebooks to Graduate Programs and Careers in Psychology**

American Psychological Association (1998). Graduate Study in Psychology, 1988 edition. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. (ISBN 1-55798-489-1; \$21.95)

American Psychological Association (1993). Getting in: A step-by-step plan for gaining admission to Graduate School in Psychology. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. (ISBN 1-55798-219-8; \$14.95)

Keith-Spiegel, P. (1991). The Complete Guide to Graduate School Admission: Psychology and Related Fields. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum. (ISBN 0-85058-063-85, \$18.50)

Norcross, J.C., Sayette, M.A., Maybe, T.J. (1997). Insider's Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology NY: Guilford Publications, Inc. (1-800-365-7006); ISBN-1-57230-086-8; \$19.95)

Steinberg, R.J. (1997). Career Paths in Psychology. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC (ISBN-1-55798-411-5, \$19.95)

### **Materials Available from the Educational Testing Service Who Admisters the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)**

Powerprep, GRE test preparation software from the Education Testing Service (some free, some not)

(<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=d683919ac3ca5010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnextchannel=7aff2ce292885010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>)

GRE Practice books are also available for just the math section or all sections. These can be ordered from ETS by calling 1-866-473-4373).

**Latest update:** 11/2008

**Disclaimer:** This information is compiled from multiple sources for CMC students only. Note professionals often have different opinions and not all program requirements are the same.