

<https://psychology.fas.harvard.edu/pprep>

DEMYSTIFYING THE APPLICATION

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Application Components

GPA/Transcripts

GRE scores (but maybe not this year!)

Letters of Recommendation

Personal Information + CV

Personal/Research Statement

fee waivers!



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
2	School	Program	Fee	Link	Fee waiver	Application	Letters of rec	GRE subject tes	Diversity statem	Supporting mate	GRE scores	Fee waiver	Official transcript	Application Submitt	Recommender 1	Recommender 2	Recommender 3
3	Stanford University	Psychology	\$125	https://www.	10/24/17	11/14/17	12/1/17	N/A	1 paragraph	N/A	10/7/17	10/15/17	10/15/17		Submitted	Invited 10/1/17	Invited 10/1/17
4	Berkeley University	Psychology	\$105	https://gradad	Submit w/ a	12/1/17	12/1/17?	N/A	1.5-2 pages	CV or resumé	10/7/17		10/15/17		Submitted	Invited 10/1/17	Invited 10/1/17
5	Rutgers University	Psychology	\$70	http://gsnb.ru	N/A	12/15/17	12/15/17	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/7/17	N/A	10/15/17		Submitted	Invited 10/1/17	Invited 10/1/17
6																	

Get organized | <https://tinyurl.com/y4x56hy7>

code: PPREP2020

Harvard fee waiver

Letters of Recommendation

Usually need 3...

Who do you ask?

When do you ask?

What do you need to give them?

Letters of Recommendation

As soon as possible, give letter writers...

Spreadsheet of programs to which you've applied + due dates (one row per department/program)

A draft of your personal/research statement

Any information that you think they should highlight!

Consider sending a thank you note once it's all over

All the basic background information but some applications ask if you want to provide...

Example of written work?

Your website?*

Awards/honors received?

Independent work or research experience; posters or papers?

Personal Information

All the basic background information, but some applications ask if you want to provide...

Explanation of withdrawals/dismissals?

Explanation of transfers?

Anything else about your academic or work trajectory?
(e.g., gaps due to service, family obligations, illness)

Personal Information

Education

Honors/awards/funding

Papers | in prep, under review, in press, published

Posters/presentations

Research positions

Skills | programming, instruments, assessments, analysis

Teaching/leadership/outreach experience

Curriculum Vitae (CV)



THE
RESEARCH
STATEMENT

Read the instructions!!

Research Statement

Personal Statement

Statement of Purpose

Statement Components

YOUR *WHOLE* SELF

General Interests

Career Goals

Relevant Experience and Skills

Selling the fit

Critical and creative thinking

Your *Whole* Self

Be true to yourself and your experiences*

Discuss your identities; explain why they are relevant to your journey and your science*

As you discuss your professional experiences, explain what you've learned + how you've grown**

*credit: Osiris Rankin; **Mitch Prinstein

General Interests

Clear and thoughtful statement regarding the applicant's general research interests

What do you want to study and why?

Career Goals

Clear and thoughtful statement regarding the applicant's career goals

Have you articulated your reasons for pursuing a Ph.D. (as opposed to any other research path)?

Relevant Experience + Skills

Explain which skills you acquired (no lists, put in context)

Why you chose to pursue those experiences

What you *learned* from the experiences

(i.e. future directions, what NOT to pursue, etc.)

Selling the Fit

Clear and and compelling statement of why applicant is interested in THIS lab/department/program

Tailor this for each application

Pick 2-4 faculty and call them out by name!

Explain how your interests relate to their ongoing work*

Critical + Creative Thinking

Weave throughout!

How do you connect your research experience/
findings to the broader Qs in the desired department?

In the field more broadly?

Name any time you came up with a research insight or
solution!

Overall
structure...
but also
within each
research
experience

Opening: What big question are you interested in?

Body: What are your experiences? How did these shape your interests and goals?

Closing: Why are you applying to this program?



THE
PROCESS

On our end...

Staff check apps for completeness

Collate all applicants for review

Admissions committee review (this varies!) usually within a week or two so it's fast

How Mina and John review...

Interviews!



THE
INTERVIEW

YOU DID IT! *AIR HORN*

Different programs have different interview processes

Probably all on zoom this year...which is good!

Dress like you would for an office interview*

Send thank you emails to everyone you meet!

Interviewing: General

Have read *at least* 3 recent papers

Be prepared to briefly summarize your own interests but *esp* how they fit within the scope of the lab

Have questions ready for them! This is a 2-way street

Ask them about their mentorship style and values

If you stumble on a question: "Huh! That's a hard one.

How would you answer that?"

Interviewing: Potential advisor



Questions we've asked

What areas of the field interest you? What do you find exciting about those topics? Why?

Tell me about one of your favorite articles. What was it about and what do you find interesting about it?

Tell me about your past research experience. What did you learn from this experience? How did that experience influence your choice to apply to our doctoral program?

Do you hope to continue pursuing the topics you have worked on before? Why or why not?



Questions we've asked

What research connections do you see between your interests and the interests of my lab? In what direction would you like to see our work move or extend?

What do you want to learn in graduate school?

If time and money were not constraints, what experiment would you run?

What idea/theory in psychology do you think is both interesting and wrong?



Questions we've asked

What do you look for in a supervisor?

Where else are you applying?

If you were to not do a PhD in psychology, what would you want to do?

Get your schedule ahead of time

Read (at least skim) a recent paper from each person on it

Have questions ready for them!

Do they ever collaborate with other faculty?

If all else fails: "what are you working on now that you're most excited about?"

Interviewing: Other faculty meetings

THESE ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR FACULTY MTGS

Ask them... how they chose this lab

... what it's like to work with the advisor

...about the lab + department culture

Do they ever collaborate with other students? Other faculty?

Do they have the resources they need to get research done?

How much coursework/teaching is there?

What does a typical day/week look like?

Interviewing: Trainees

The background features a complex geometric design. It consists of several overlapping shapes: a large blue triangle on the right, a grey trapezoid on the left, and a white trapezoid at the top. These shapes are separated by thin, parallel lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is dynamic and modern.

Q + A

Homework: *How to
write a research
statement worksheet*

Writing the research
statement

Adapted from Paths to PhD | Stanford Psych