



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Psychology

University of Arizona Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology: Academic Recruitment and Admissions Policy Statement

The University of Arizona's Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology follows a clinical-science training model in which we apply the science of human behavior and behavior change to the amelioration of psychopathology and others forms of psychological impairment as well as to the promotion of health and wellness. Central to our definition of clinical science is the belief that the relationship between clinical research and its application is reciprocal: The best clinical skills are grounded in empirical and theoretical knowledge, and clinical application continuously informs the evolution of theory and research. Within this clinical science model, we have developed a student-centered, science-based curriculum that emphasizes flexibility (for students and advisors to tailor the learning experiences to the needs of a specific student) and the close mentoring of research experiences (with each student working collaboratively with one or more faculty members).

Admission to our program follows a logical progression based on our training mission. Our first consideration is a stated interest the production and/or the application of scientific knowledge as a primary career goal. As a mentor-based, clinical scientist program, our second consideration is goodness of research fit with a potential mentor. Third, we consider whether the research experiences of the potential student are consistent with the centrality of research in our training mission. Given this perspective, we weigh research experiences and letters of recommendation more heavily than GPA and/or GRE scores. We have no pre-defined formula or program-level cut-scores for considering applications; rather, we try to evaluate every application holistically, with the primary goal of identifying goodness of fit between each applicant and his or her potential mentor. As a general guide, our publicly-available GPA and GRE scores for incoming classes is available here: https://psychology.arizona.edu/sites/psychology.arizona.edu/files/student_admissions_outcomes_and_other_data.pdf

Our program values diversity in all its forms, and applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to students from under-represented populations, first-generation college students, veterans, students with disabilities, and people who identify as LGBTQIA, are actively encouraged. Because we do not use a strict GPA or GRE cut-offs, we are able to consider applicants' professional development trajectories on an individualized basis to understand diverse, atypical, or underrepresented pathways that may lead people to apply to our program. We believe these life experiences add value not only to our program, but to the kinds of science we can ultimately produce. For these reasons, we encourage all applicants with a history of research experiences to apply to our program.