

# CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

---

## THINGS TO DO:

Here are some suggestions to help you learn about and become a competitive applicant for graduate school:

### *Things to do throughout your undergraduate experience:*

- Get to know your faculty. We are here to help you.
- Set up an appointment with a designated Graduate School Adviser. (See the Department of Psychological Sciences main office for information about advising hours.)
- Participate in student clubs and organizations such as *Psi Chi*, *Research Club*, *Clinical/Counseling Club*, and the *Sport and Performance Psychology Club*. Participating in these groups can help you gain experience working closely with faculty, conducting research, presenting at professional conferences, and forming networks with other students interested in graduate school.
- Apply for scholarships and awards offered by MSU-Denver (<https://www.msudenver.edu/financialaid/scholarships/>) and by the Department (<https://www.msudenver.edu/psychology/currentstudents/awards/>).
- Attend presentations and workshops about graduate school offered by Career Services (<https://www.msudenver.edu/career/forstudents/graduateschoolservices/>) and by the Department.

### *Things to do during your last two years (approximately) as an undergraduate student:*

- Gain research, clinical, and other experience by enrolling in PSY 3980 – Internship in Psychology. See the MSU-Denver Applied Learning Center for opportunities and additional information (<http://www.msudenver.edu/appliedlearningcenter/>).
- Ask faculty about opportunities to work as a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant. Understand that the availability and types of opportunities differ between faculty, and that faculty can work with only a limited number of students each semester.
- Deliver presentations at the annual MSU-Denver Research Conference and at other conferences such as the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference. Check out the MSU Denver Undergraduate Research Program for information about conducting research as an undergraduate at MSU Denver (<https://www.msudenver.edu/undergraduate-research-program/>).

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Below are sources of information and assistance about graduate school offered by the MSU-Denver Department of Psychological Sciences:

- The “Applying to Grad Programs in Psychology” link on the Department website (<http://www.msudenver.edu/psychology/applyingtogradprograms/>) contains **links** to useful information about graduate school, such as areas of study and types of graduate degrees; **handouts** with information about psychology graduate school programs and the graduate school application process; and **information sessions** about graduate school
- Books available from a Graduate School Adviser and in the Department main office:
  - *Graduate Study in Psychology* (American Psychological Association)
  - *Practicing to Take the GRE General Test* (Educational Testing Service)
  - *Insider’s Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology* (Norcross & Sayette)
- Handouts available on the Department website and outside the Department main office. These handouts contain information on psychology graduate programs in Colorado, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), obtaining letters of recommendation from faculty, and degrees and licensure in Clinical/Counseling Psychology (website only).
- Graduate school information sessions hosted by Dr. Ansburg and Dr. Schatz. These sessions include *Researching and Selecting Graduate Programs*, *Applying to Graduate Programs in Psychology*, *How to Write Effective Graduate School Application Essays*, and *General Q & A on Graduate School in Psychology*. See the Department website for the dates and locations of these sessions.
- Psychology Department faculty: Faculty are happy to provide you with information and assistance regarding graduate school. But you have to ask!
- Psychology Department students: Talk with other students, especially upper-level students who have applied or plan to apply to graduate programs. A great way to get to know these students is to join student clubs and organizations in the Department.