

Admissions Policies & Procedures

We evaluate applicants for admission based on their transcripts, GPA, letters of recommendation, research experience, and personal statements.

As part of the application process, all candidates submit:

- Transcripts from all prior colleges and universities
- An academic resume or CV (curriculum vitae)
- A personal statement of interest in clinical psychology and our program
- A statement summarizing research experience and interests
- 3 letters of recommendation from faculty or professional supervisors

We do **not** require the GRE as part of the application for admission to our program.

The University also offers special fellowships for diverse and high achieving students. These include the Prompt Assistantship, Graduate Dean's Fellowship, and the Morris Fellowship. Students who wish to be considered for these fellowships should submit one additional (two-page) essay, as described below.

The **PROMPT Program** (Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow) is an initiative developed by the Graduate School of Southern Illinois University (SIU) to increase the number of individuals receiving advanced degrees in the United States from families which have traditionally not had access to the opportunities of higher education and who, through their life and / or cultural experiences, have unique and potentially positive contributions to make to the program, the discipline, and in the larger academic community. Interested students should submit a two-page (maximum) essay that describes how the student's personal or family background, life, cultural, and/or ethnic experiences could contribute to a more reflective, responsive environment in the program, the discipline, and in the larger academic community.

The **Graduate Dean's Fellowship** (GDF) is for individuals from underrepresented groups who have overcome social, cultural, or economic conditions. Awards will be given to students who are qualified by the usual indicators of promise for success in graduate study. Interested students must submit a two-page (maximum) award essay that describes how your personal or family background, life, cultural, and/or ethnic experiences could contribute to a more reflective, responsive environment in the program, the discipline, and in the larger academic community.

The **Morris Doctoral Fellowship** is for those nominees who are new to Southern Illinois University. This fellowship is intended for applicants who possess exceptional credentials as indicated by high scholastic standing, excellent scores on standardized tests, outstanding recommendations, and evidence of significant potential for research and publication. The two-page essay should describe your academic excellence, firsthand experiences, educational goals, and professional interests and how these can contribute to a more reflective, responsive environment in the program, the discipline, and the larger university community. The GRE is required for the application for the Morris Fellowship.

More information on these fellowships can be found here: <https://gradschool.siu.edu/cost-aid/fellowships/>

It should be noted that we have generally provided 10 or 20-hour graduate assistantships for all of our students in residence. Students do not have to obtain a fellowship for financial assistance.

Candidate Selection

We generally seek students with GPAs that exceed 3.5. In addition to the traditional quantitative indices of academic potential, we look for evidence of research experience and clinically relevant service activities. We are particularly impressed by activities consistent with the applicant's identified career goals. In letters of recommendation, we look for indications that the applicant is intellectually curious and hard-working, socially adjusted and interpersonally skilled, and has a sense of humor and a mature self-perspective. We are committed to diversifying Clinical Psychology and strive to recruit students across race/ethnic groups, gender, age, geographical origin, and other demographic characteristics.

The selection of new students proceeds through an initial credential review and culminates in a mid to late February Virtual Interview Day for a select short-list of applicants. Admission decisions are based on group consensus and undergo a review process by the Psychology Department Graduate Admissions Committee. Students who receive an offer of admission are encouraged to come and visit in person to meet with faculty, current graduate students, and see our campus and lab facilities, prior to making a decision.

We typically admit five to ten new students in the Clinical program each year. The number of students accepted approximates the number who graduate or leave for internship and the number for whom funding is available. In recent years, the number of applicants is typically in the range of 75–125 so admission is quite competitive.

Frequently Asked Questions:

"What about financial assistance?"

The Psychology Department has a long record of student support. We traditionally provide stipends and tuition waivers for all graduate students for four years in which they are enrolled in the program. Nine-month training assignments carry a monthly stipend (currently about \$1300/month before taxes for first year students), as well as a tuition remission. Support during the summer session is less predictable, but the department tries where possible to provide at least one month of support beyond the nine months of Spring and Fall terms.

"Do you accept students who have a M.A.?"

Applications are accepted from students who have either a B.A. or M.A.

"What if I'm interested in pursuing only a Master's degree? And may I attend part-time?"

The graduate program in Clinical Psychology is a doctoral program. Although students earn a master's degree in the course of earning the Ph.D., only students desiring the doctorate are admitted. Thus, we discourage applications from those seeking just the MA. The involvement needed to pursue the Ph.D. requires full-time enrollment status. Students must remain in residence for three years.

"I'm not really interested in research—do you prepare students for private practice?"

Although some of our graduates do eventually pursue careers in private practice, our program would NOT be a good fit for the student who dislikes research and only wants a private practice career.

"Will I have an opportunity to gain teaching experience?"

For those students who plan a career in teaching, a number of opportunities are available. The first experience might be as a teaching assistant (TA)/discussion leader in sections of the Introductory Psychology course, or as a TA in undergraduate research methods, or some other course. A student who has demonstrated skill and interest may ultimately have full responsibility for teaching an undergraduate course such as Personality or Psychopathology.

"What if I want an application or have other questions?"

The application process is all online. You may send e-mail for more information to gradpsyc@siu.edu or contact the Graduate Admissions Coordinator at 618- 536-2301, postal address:

Graduate Admissions Coordinator
School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences
Mailcode 6502
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