

We mean well, but we ramble.

In attempt to wake you from the boredom-induced coma we may have put you in, I have included an outline w/ the basic facts, “what we wish we knew”s, and “how to”s. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email us and tap in to our newfound knowledge.

I. Finding graduate schools

- a. “The Book” (Also known as “Graduate Study in Psychology” from the APA).
 - i. This can be checked out from the Psych Dept office.
- b. APA Accredited Programs
 - i. <http://apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/accred-professional.aspx>
 - ii. School Psych: <http://www.nasponline.org/certification/NASPAapproved.aspx>
 - iii. Clinical: <http://apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/clinical.aspx>
 - iv. etc.
- c. Remember, “high and low hanging fruit”
 - i. Establish one school that you are really reaching for (you’d love to get in, but it’s difficult) and one school that you know you can get in to... then apply to all the schools in the middle (that you can afford).
- d. Ph.D. vs. Psy.D. & matters of orientation (behavioralist, etc.)

II. GRE

- a. General Test
 - i. Buy the book (make sure it comes w/ the computer-adaptive practice test CD).
 1. Learn what “computer-adaptive” means if you don’t already know.
 - ii. Set a date. Schedule your test.
 1. http://www.ets.org/gre/general/register/centers_dates/ (TEST DATES)
 2. Plan ahead. Study accordingly.
- b. Subject (Psychology) Test
 - i. Do some research; many schools **do not** require this.

III. Application Procedure & Materials

- a. Start early in the summer.
 - i. Establish timelines/deadlines. Many schools have early (**Nov. 1**) deadlines.
 - ii. Stay organized. We suggest a binder. And a spreadsheet.
- b. Letters of Recommendation (3+)
 - i. Ask your professors early (roughly...the first weeks of the fall semester).
 - ii. Ask if they can write you a “strong letter.”
 - iii. Have a folder for them. If you are organized, it’s much easier on them.
 1. Folder should include: Deadlines (see email attachment for example spreadsheet), addressed and stamped envelopes for letters to be mailed, CV/resume, personal statement, any required forms from graduate schools, etc.

- c. Transcripts
 - i. Must be sent from all colleges and universities (even if you only took one class at a community college, AP dual-credit, etc.).
 - ii. Account for the time they will spend in the mail, etc.
 - d. Personal Statement
 - i. We are having a **Personal Statement Workshop on APRIL 21.**
 - ii. Tailor this to each school (program specifics, faculty & research, etc.).
 - iii. Be original. Professional.
 - iv. Exhibit great writing skills.
 - 1. If you aren't a great writer, elicit help from peers, mentors, willing faculty, etc.
 - 2. Do not underestimate the necessity of proofreading.
 - e. CV
 - i. If you don't know what this is, find out.
 - ii. Look at it now. Where are their holes that you can work toward filling in?
 - iii. Again, professional. Not Elle Woods pink and scented.
 - f. Remember, application materials are program/school-specific.
 - i. Schools vary on preferred forms of letters or recommendation (mail, electronic, with or separate from application packet).
 - ii. Transcripts may be mailed to the department specifically or to a general graduate school address.
 - iii. Etc.
 - g. Costs add up: GRE (\$23 each), transcripts, application fees (roughly \$50), and mail costs.
- IV. Interview process
- a. If given the choice, in person > phone interview.
 - b. Be prepared (program/mission, faculty, research, etc.).
 - c. Engage yourself and the interviewer in conversation.
 - i. Sound knowledgeable, but humble.
 - ii. Ask questions that not only make you look like a smarty pants, but are good to know.... For example, "Do first year students have an opportunity to ____?" or "How much involvement do the graduate students have in writing grant applications?" etc.