

UNCW PhD General Clinical Program Admissions Policies and Procedures

Students submit an application to the UNCW Graduate School (not the Psychology Department). Students will be admitted to the PhD program in General Clinical Psychology by recommendation of the Admissions Committee (comprised of the Core Faculty), based upon eligibility requirements, fit with the programs research and clinical training offerings, and available resources. Applications are reviewed using a holistic approach (i.e. no specific weighting system or minimum for GPA, recommenders ratings, etc.) and with the intent of attracting students from a range of diverse backgrounds.

Specifically, Core Faculty gauge applicants' interests and aptitude to meet the program's aims through their previous experiences with research, populations of need, academic and other achievements, and career paths as expressed in their personal statements. Any reference to interests in or experiences with substance use populations is a plus, as the department offers unique expertise in this area.

Under most circumstances, students admitted to the program will have met the following requirements:

1. *Bachelor's* degree from a regionally accredited college or university or its equivalent from a foreign institution of higher education accredited university.
2. Major of psychology or at least 21 hours of psychology with a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) with evidence of a grade of at least a B in a course in statistics and a grade of at least a B in a course in psychology research methods.
3. Three letters of recommendation from professionals in a psychology-related field. At least two letters must be from faculty members.
4. Current curriculum vitae/resumé.
5. A 500-800 word statement of interest ("Personal Statement") written in essay form that describes
 - research interests and experiences
 - specific UNCW faculty member(s) requested as a research mentor(s)
 - other psychology-related experiences, including any knowledge, skills, experiences or interests related to working with diverse populations
 - career goals, and any other additional strengths that will make the applicant an excellent candidate for the graduate program.

The statement of interest should capture the student's interest in the field of study.

6. (Invited) interview with faculty member(s) that indicates excellent fit with our program's clinical training focus as well as a match with a faculty research mentor.

Applicants with a master's degree in psychology *are not currently considered for admission to the General Clinical program*. Applicants with a master's degree *not in psychology* are invited to apply according to the guidelines 1-6 listed above. There is no credit for work completed prior to matriculation.

Importance of Diversity

The Program aims to recruit a broad pool of diverse applicants. The Department considers diversity to include, race, sex, age, national origin (including ethnicity),

language, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, veteran's status, neurodiversity, socio-economic status, and history of overcoming adversity.

Diversity is essential to quality scientific and practical training in Health Service Psychology. The Program is responsible for creating and maintaining an inclusive environment that is welcoming, respectful and affirming of students', and faculty members' multiple identities. Applicants from diverse backgrounds and identities are highly encouraged to apply.

PhD General Clinical Student Admissions:

- Cohort size: generally, 3-4 students each year to ensure opportunities for meaningful peer interaction, support and socialization.

Student Financial Support: Efforts will be made to support all students with a combination of Graduate School Teaching stipends, Research Assistantships, and Graduate Assistantships for 4 years. To date, we have provided each admitted student with a competitive stipend, research assistant position and/or tuition assistance.

- Financial support is not available beyond the 4th year. However, the Department may have urgent teaching needs, and advanced graduate students in good standing will be given high priority for a part-time teaching assignment(s).
- Timing: Core faculty begin to review applications in December and invitations for interviews are sent out by the Graduate Coordinator (GC) and Director of Clinical Training (DCT) in mid-January.
- For those invited to Interview Weekend, interviews with research and clinical faculty take place via Zoom during a Friday & Saturday in mid-February.
- Admission is dependent on both a research match and clinical match with our program.
- Offers are extended as soon as possible, and offers are made until the cohort slots (3-4) are filled. Applicants have until April 15 to accept offers.