

School Psychology Admissions

Applicants to the school psychology program are required to submit the following application materials directly to the graduate school:

- 1) Application Form (which includes letter of intent)
- 2) Official transcripts from all universities attended
- 3) Official report of GRE scores
- 4) 3 letters of recommendation

Applicants are also encouraged to include a vita with their materials.

Applicants are initially evaluated based on these sources of information. Finalists are then identified and phone or in-person interviews are conducted with all finalists. In general, each year 8-12 finalists will be identified and 4-6 applicants will be admitted.

Potential for Academic Excellence

The ability of applicants to succeed in a rigorous Master's program is evaluated through the following methods:

- 1) GPA
 - a. minimum standard is 3.2 or above from an undergraduate university and/or 3.5 in a graduate program (this minimum standard may be waived in cases in which applicants are exceptional in other areas)
- 2) GRE scores
 - a. minimum standard is 40th percentile or above in Verbal and Quantitative and combined scores of 1100 (this minimum standard may be waived in cases in which applicants are exceptional in other areas)
 - b.
- 3) Letters of Recommendation
 - a. ratings of academic ability as well as written comments regarding ability to succeed in a graduate program

Research Potential

This area is emphasized somewhat less than other areas given that the Master's program is more clinically-based than research based. However, we consider the ability to engage in research to be important for all future psychologists. This potential is evaluated through:

- 1) Letter of Intent (and vita if included with application materials)
 - a. Description of previous research activities
 - b. Statement of future research interests
- 2) Letters of recommendation
 - a. Description of involvement in research activities

Potential for Excellent Services in School Psychology

The purpose of the school psychology program is to prepare students to work as school psychologists in the public schools. Thus, ability to engage in clinical practice within the schools is important. This potential is evaluated through:

- 1) Letter of Intent (and vita if included)
 - a. Description of previous experience working with children in school or clinical settings
 - b. Statements regarding future career goals
- 2) Letters of recommendation
 - a. Description of involvement in applied experiences with children, families, etc.

Background in Psychology

The school psychology program is housed in a psychology department and graduate students are assumed to have basic knowledge of psychology theories and principles. This is evaluated through

- 1) A review of transcripts for psychology courses taken and grades received

Match with Program at USU

We believe fit with the program in terms of psychological orientation and research interests is important for graduate students to be successful in the program. This is evaluated through:

- 1) Letter of intent
- 2) Interviews and other written and verbal communications with admissions committee members

Written Communication Skills

The ability to communicate effectively in writing is an important skill both to succeed in graduate school and to be a successful school psychologist. We evaluate this through:

- 1) Letter of intent
- 2) Letters of recommendation
 - a. Statements made that specifically address this area
- 3) Other written communications with admissions committee members

Verbal Communication Skills

The ability to verbally communicate with others is particularly important when working with families and other professionals. We evaluate this through:

- 1) Letters of recommendation
 - a. Statements made that specifically address this area
- 2) Interviews and other verbal communications with admissions committee members

Ability to Form Collegial Relationships

The ability to work effectively with others is important for success in applied activities. This is evaluated through:

- 1) Letter of recommendation
 - a. Statements made that specifically address this area
- 2) Interview with admissions committee members

Professionalism

School psychologists must be able to interact with other individuals including parents, children, teachers, etc. in a professional, non-discriminatory manner. This is evaluated through:

- 1) Letters of recommendation
 - a. Statements made that specifically address this area
- 2) Interviews and other communications with admissions committee members