

**11/7 General Body Meeting Minutes:
Graduate School in Psychology w/ Dr. Chin**

Ph.D

- Need to have a different mindset for grad school (looking for students that eat, sleep, and breathe grad school)
- How to get into Grad School?
 - Need to have good/high GRE scores compared to other students nationwide
 - GPA (will look at overall, last 2 years, and/or psychology GPA)
 - Coursework: will look at it occasionally to see if took difficult classes
 - Letters of recommendation: at least 3 good letters (all should be academic); 1 can be from an internship (more for clinical & counseling)
 - Honors in the Major (HIM) Thesis: not required, but should look into
 - Fieldwork: not required, but should look into & can get credit hours
 - Get involved in Psi Chi, Psychological Society, Multicultural Psychological Student Association, etc.
 - Undergraduate Research Assistant (RA): mainly for doctoral programs
 - Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (TA)
 - Peer advisor in the Psychology Advising Center

- Should you go to Grad School?
 - Need to be self-motivated & interested in learning
 - Won't make a lot of money during grad school, so money shouldn't be an important factor

- What is Grad School like?
 - Full-time
 - Small seminar classes
 - Essay exams/ take-home exams
 - Eat, live, and breathe psychology
 - Reading primary sources (journal articles)
 - Virtually no electives
 - Multitasking (go to class, do research, work as GTA, etc)
 - Working as a GTA or GRA (no outside employment)
 - Be at your advisor's beck & call

- Apply now or later?
 - It's ok to wait and take a gap year
 - But don't wait too long
 - Don't be in a rush to graduate, can postpone graduation if need research experience

- How long does it take?
 - About 5 years for PhD

- About 2 years for Masters
- Where should I apply?
 - Apply to a bunch of schools that you think is a good fit
 - Good fit: matching research interests
 - Make sure you're on your best behavior constantly
 - Do the schools have a good reputation in the psychological research world?
 - Look at grad school reputation not undergrad
 - Look at department size
 - Large departments have the most resources
 - Best if you can apply to schools out-of-state because that means more options
- How to afford Grad School?
 - Fellowships, GTA, GRA, tuition waivers
 - Most still had a bit of debt
 - Ph.D students get the most aid, Master's students sometimes get aid
 - GTA and GRA salaries are low
 - Raising a family on a graduate student's salary is very hard
- Personal statement:
 - Get feedback/revise it
 - Tailor letters for each school
 - Promote strengths, but don't overdo it
 - Don't get too personal
- Master's or Doctorate:
 - Take the GRE to see if you're competitive for doctorate & then see which one you want
 - A master's isn't necessarily a stepping stone for getting into a PhD program; maybe save 1 year in a PhD program
- PsyD
 - For people interested in practicing psychology
 - Can be costly & less financial aid than PhD
 - No major emphasis on research
- Try to visit the schools before applying & definitely after they accept you
- Try to talk to graduate students when you visit schools
- What to do if you're not accepted:
 - Do something useful with your time (ex. Research, take GRE again, etc)
- Always waive right to view letter of recommendation
 - If taking a gap year it's best to let the teacher know you would like to have them write a letter of recommendation in the future & email them when the time comes to remind them