

Applying to Graduate School in Psychology

10/19/21

**What will I need when
applying to graduate school in
psychology?**

- Letters of recommendation
(typically 3)
- Official transcript from Carleton
- Personal statement
- GRE scores

**When are applications
typically due?**

- For Ph.D. programs, December 1st is a common deadline
- Most Ph.D. programs have due dates in December-January

- NOTE: December 1st is typically when fall grades are due from Carleton faculty

When should I ask faculty for letters of recommendation?

- General recommendation:

At least one month before the first letter is due.

**Whom should I ask for letters
of recommendation?**

Carleton faculty who know your work

Summer research supervisors outside
of Carleton

Possibly non-research clinical or work
supervisors (depends)

**What kinds of things do I need to
provide for faculty
recommenders?**

- Personal statement
- Transcript
- Resume
- List of schools you're applying to
- The types of programs
- Due dates for each program
- Friendly reminders (optional)

- **What's a reasonable number of schools to apply to?**
- **OR**
- **How many letters can I ask of an individual faculty member without upsetting them?**

It depends

**How can I enhance my chances
of getting into graduate school
in psychology?**

Contact individual faculty members at the schools you're interested in (for Ph.D. programs)

Contact student outreach representatives and ask them for guidance

Consider visiting a school/lab (probably won't work for clinical programs)

**Is it necessary to have
research experience before
applying to graduate school?**

Yes

**Is there anything else I can
do?**

Some possibilities:

Attach a link to a video of you speaking (1) about yourself as an applicant and/or (2) giving a presentation of some kind (if it's good and you come across positively on camera.

Any other advice?

Consider attaching one of your papers, especially if you're the sole student author on the paper.

Talk in class, at least in
small groups

Visit office hours and ask
questions

**Try to get over your
terror about looking less
than brilliant in front of
your professors**

How do I approach faculty members when asking for a recommendation?

For me personally:

- Email request is OK
- Asking for an in person meeting is OK, too
- Voicemail request is OK, too

**Is it OK to wait a year or two
after graduation before I
apply, or will that work
against me?**

More than OK!!

**Where can I find more
resources on applying to
graduate school in
psychology?**

[https://www.apa.org/education](https://www.apa.org/education-career/grad/applying)
career/grad/applying

Final Thoughts

Besides the APA site, I would ask other people (faculty, former students, people in the field) for their perspectives.