

PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium Admissions Requirements and FAQ

Preparation

Coursework: In order to ensure a smooth transition into graduate study, we strongly recommend 18 semester hrs (27 quarter hrs) of Psychology coursework including courses in: General Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Statistics, Biopsychology (including Physiological, Neuropsychology, or the equivalent), and Developmental Psychology. Preparing for the Psychology Subtest of the GRE is also a good exposure to the broader field of psychology. Considering the value we place on a solid psychology background, we look favorably upon a score of 650 or higher on the Psych GRE.

Clinical Experience: To ensure that applicants have an understanding of the career to which they are committing themselves, strong preference is given to applicants with some form of clinical experience (e.g., crisis line, assessments, case management, or therapy, etc).

Application Deadlines

Early Consideration Deadline: December 1, 2011 (postmark)

General Consideration Deadline: January 2, 2012 (postmark)

Applications received after the General Consideration Deadline may be reviewed if openings for new students are still available. (We accept no more than 30 students each year.)

Interview

Finalists will be extended invitations to interview at both the Palo Alto University and Stanford University campuses as applications are reviewed.

Early Consideration Finalist Interviews: December and January

General Consideration Finalist Interviews: February and March

In person interviews are strongly encouraged such that prospective students have the opportunity to visit the campuses and meet the faculty/students.

Application Checklist

1. Application Fee

The application fee is **\$50.00** for all programs. The application fee can be paid by a nonrefundable check or money order payable to **Palo Alto University**.

2. Resume/Curriculum Vitae

Please include a resume or CV that lists all employment, training, and any volunteer work relevant to the field of psychology as well as other full-time employment.

3. Official Transcripts

Transcripts from undergraduate and graduate institutions attended must be sent directly from the institution, even if a degree was not awarded.

4. GRE Test Scores

PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium: The GRE **General** test is required. The **Psychology Subject** test scores are not required, however they are highly valued. The PAU institutional code for receipt of GRE scores is **4638**.

5. Statement of Purpose

Please answer the following questions in your statement:

(Double spaced, typed, and MAXIMUM 1,000 words)

1. Brief autobiographical sketch, including what led to your interest in clinical psychology
2. What are the strengths and accomplishments that have prepared you for graduate psychology training in clinical psychology. What skills and knowledge, including academic preparation, research experience, and clinical experience, have prepared you for graduate school?
3. Discussion of your future career goals as a clinical psychologist that addresses the following: Why do you want to become a clinical psychologist and what aspects of the PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium will help you reach these goals?

6. Letters of Recommendation

Please provide three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your ability and/or potential for rigorous graduate study, clinical work, and/or research. Whenever possible, they should be faculty members in psychology or practicing professionals in psychology or other mental health discipline. Please use the **Graduate Admission Reference Waiver Forms** provided in addition to a personal letter. The waiver forms are necessary for processing your application and must be returned with each letter of recommendation.

7. International Students

For students whose first language is not English, a demonstrated proficiency in English is required for admission. PAU recognizes the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as measures of English language proficiency.

8. Application Form

You may request to receive an application packet in the mail here. You may also print out the application form and mail it to PAU or file it directly on-line here. Mailed applications must be typed or printed legibly in ink and signed by the applicant. All application materials should be mailed to:

**Office of Admissions
Palo Alto University
1791 Arastradero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304**

Candidate Selection

The Consortium aims to attract and educate students who are distinguished by their academic achievement, capacity for critical thinking, interpersonal skills, motivation to become exceptional clinicians, and commitment to service. Preference is given to applicants who have demonstrated an interest in the field of psychology through relevant coursework and/or professional experiences, an overall undergraduate grade-point average of at least a 3.3, a graduate grade-point average of at least 3.5 (if applicable), an overall GRE score greater than 1150, and strong interpersonal skills as demonstrated in the admissions interview. Average scores for our newest incoming students (Class of 2016) are 3.60 UGPA; 1293 GRE. Although these criteria inform the Consortium student selection process, our goal is to recruit a highly talented, compassionate, diverse student body committed to clinical service. Thus, factors such as the quality of early educational environment, culture, ethnicity, as well as life and work experiences are also considered.

Admissions Offers

Offers of admission will be made via telephone by **April 1, 2012** or shortly thereafter. The deadline for applicants to notify the program of their decision to accept or decline an admissions offer is **April 15, 2012**.

Admission Policy

If you are offered admission, the PGSP-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium and Palo Alto University reserves the right to withdraw that offer of admission if:

1. You have misrepresented yourself in the application process;
2. We learn that you have engaged in behavior prior to matriculation that indicates a serious lack of judgment or integrity; or
3. You show a significant drop in academic performance or fail to graduate from a program in which you are currently

enrolled.

The Consortium adheres to the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology Guidelines pertaining to admissions offers.

All applicants to, and students enrolled in, the program should be assured Palo Alto University practices a nondiscrimination policy regarding disability, gender, military status, age, race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origins in admission, employment, and in the administration of its program and activities. Any otherwise qualified student, or applicant, with a disability may request reasonable accommodation regarding the application process and services as a prospective or enrolled student. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be submitted to the *Vice President of Student Services, Palo Alto University, 1791 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, California 94304; telephone 800-818-6136.*

Frequently Ask Questions

1. I am interested in applying to both PAU's PGSP PhD program and PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium. Do I need to submit two different Statements of Purpose?

Yes, although both programs are committed to training clinical psychologists, the programs have different strengths, training missions, structure, and faculty. When applying to the Consortium please ensure that you have answered item #3 in your Statement referencing the specific aspects of the PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium that will help you realize your career goals.

2. I am concerned that my GRE scores from the December administration won't make it in time for the General Consideration Deadline. Will my application still be considered?

Please make sure that the rest of your application is submitted by the application deadline. The Admissions Committee will consider your application to be on hold status until the scores are received but the application will be reviewed once it is complete as long as the other materials are received in time.

3. Do PGSP-Stanford PsyD students have access to the specialty tracks in the Ph.D. program (e.g., Forensic, Neuropsychology, Meditation, Psychology and the Law)?

The PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium is a rigorous full-time program with 3 years of full-time coursework. As such it is a rare exception that a student is in the position to take extra coursework outside of the PsyD curricula.

4. Does the PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium have Electives?

Yes, even though the program follows a cohort model in general, students have an opportunity to take electives in their 3rd year. Specifically, students can take either specialized Adult or Child focused coursework.

5. Does the PGSP-Stanford PsyD Consortium offer Fellowships?

Yes, we have a limited number of fellowships that we distribute based on several broadly defined criteria including merit, diversity, and financial need. Interested applicants should complete a fellowship application including the FAFSA to our admissions office by January 15, 2012.

6. What is the difference between the Early Consideration and General Consideration application process?

There is no difference in the application process itself aside from the application deadlines. Applicants who do complete their materials in time to make the Early Consideration deadline will be given offers prior to the April 1 deadline, however, and it is strongly recommended that applicants who have the program as a top choice submit to the Early Consideration.

7. Are there Teaching or Research Assistantships available to students?

The program does have several teaching assistantships available to students after they complete the first year of the

program. Teaching assistantships are granted on a course-by-course basis, and students may apply for more than one during their time in the program. Unlike traditional PhD programs, we do not offer formal Research Assistantships. Several faculty in the program have research grants, though, and do hire student assistants as part of their ongoing research programs. Students interested in pursuing this kind of funding are encouraged to contact the faculty that they may want to work with to determine availability.