Behavioral Mental Health Care Career Guide – P199, Dr. Patton
Part 4. Selecting Schools, Applying to Graduate School, Financial Support

Access links to informative articles, guidebooks, and more at http://www.indiana.edu/~PSYUGRAD/gradschool.php

After you’ve determined your license & degree goals, what will you take into consideration when selecting schools to which you’ll submit applications? Create a list of criteria you want in a graduate program and identify programs that potentially fit your criteria. Before you start searching directories, we encourage you to spend time thinking about what this decision-making process is going to involve. On the PSYUGRAD “Graduate School Decisions & Preparation” page, click on “Select graduate schools” to read:

- READ Getting In: Finding Your Fit in a Graduate Program
- READ Some Pointers for Students Interested in Applying to Graduate Programs in Clinical Psychology
- READ Will you be attending a research-oriented graduate program to prepare for a career as a scientist or practitioner?

KEY: You cannot get all of the information you need from a school’s website!! Read everything you can about the programs that interest you, and then narrow down your list and contact academic advisors, grad students or faculty members at those schools to learn more.

Two EFFECTIVE ways to search for graduate schools:

1. Utilize a graduate school guidebook such as Insider's Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology or APA Graduate Study in Psychology.

2. Check the official lists of accredited programs! Accreditation is the process by which a college or university professional program voluntarily undergoes review by an accrediting body. The purpose of these accreditation bodies is to ensure that the graduates of these programs meet the standards developed by these professions. See the next two pages of this packet for graduate programs in Indiana. (See pages 26 & 27 to see all accredited schools in Indiana – easy to find on the official lists).

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
  CSWE - Council on Social Work Education confers accreditation status on schools of social work.
  - National Directory of Accredited Programs
    http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/Accredited-Programs.aspx
  - Also see: National Association of Social Workers http://www.naswdc.org/

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) / Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
  CACREP is an independent agency that accredits master's degree programs in: career counseling, college counseling, community counseling, marital, couple, and family counseling/therapy, mental health counseling, school counseling, student affairs.
  - National Directory of Accredited Programs
    http://www.cacrep.org/directory/directory.cfm
  - Also see: American Counseling Association http://www.counseling.org/

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
  COAMFTE - Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education reviews and grants accreditation to programs at a Masters, Doctoral, and Post-Degree levels that meet or exceed Accreditation Standards.
  - National Directory of Accredited Programs
    http://www.aamft.org/imis15/Content Directories/MFT_Training_Programs.aspx
  - Also see: Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) http://www.aamft.org/

- Licensed Psychologist (LP) / Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP) / Health Service Provider in Psychology (HSPP)
  APA - American Psychological Association accredits doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, and school psychology.
  - National Directory of Accredited Doctoral Programs (PhD & PsyD) - Clinical, Counseling, School
  - Also see: American Psychological Association http://www.apa.org/

Less than optimal ways to search for graduate schools: Online graduate school directories such as “All Psychology Careers” or “Careers in Psychology” seem to exist to advertise online graduate programs. Gradschools.com also has a really heavy presence of online schools but you can select “campus” as your format. Some of the directories listed above leave out some accredited programs. Petersons.com has some good information. Still, why is it that when I search for “masters in clinical psychology” in the Midwest region, the first page I get has one school listed 7 time and most of the more respected schools appear near the bottom of the page? Googling “Top 10” or “Top 20” lists is also questionable. If you want to explore rankings, you’ll need to find out who created the list and what features they evaluated to create their list.
Behavioral & Mental Health Care Careers #5. Applying to Graduate School

GO TO -> http://www.indiana.edu/~PSYUGRAD/gradschool/apply.php

After you’ve decided on your career & training goals and selected graduate schools to which you want to apply, now comes the easier, but very time-consuming part of the process.

Timeline
Get started early! The entire process in which you select schools, take entrance exams, and prepare application packets can take quite a while. Start – ideally - in your junior year. Our Timeline for Applying to Graduate School has information about all stages of the application process!

Entrance Exams
• How do the GRE General & GRE Subject Tests differ? Do I need to take both?
• When should I take the exams? When and where are they offered?
• How much time should I spend studying for the GRE?
• Test prep resources.

Letters of Recommendation
Your letters of recommendation will reflect your academic and pre-professional accomplishments during your college career. So, the quality of your letters will depend on the experiences you select and how well you perform.

• Who should you ask for a letter of recommendation?
• When should you request your letter? How? What information should you provide?
• Should you waive your right to view your letters? Reminders?

Personal Statement
Virtually all graduate programs will ask you to submit a personal statement. Think of it as your "professional statement" - it should reveal your career goals and your experience, skills, and abilities relevant to succeeding in the graduate program of your choice. See:

• Organizing Your Personal Statement (Eye on Psi Chi: Summer 2009).
• How to Avoid the Kisses of Death (Eye on Psi Chi: Spring 2007).
• Writing the Personal Statement.

Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
• Resume: Reflect on what you've done as a student and turn those experiences into accomplishment statements to create a resume targeted for the graduate program in which you're interested. Include volunteer positions, student & professional groups, part-time jobs or internship experiences relevant to your career of interest. Also list scholarships, other honors, and study abroad programs.
• Curriculum Vitae: A CV is a resume of your academic successes and research experience. If your goal is to attend to a research-oriented graduate program and if you began participating in a research lab early enough that you've authored or co-authored posters or papers or presented research results at a conference, then you may have sufficient material for a CV.

Transcripts
• You’ll need to send official transcripts from all of the colleges you've attended to each graduate school. Be sure to request them early.

Interviews
Some schools require interviews and others request them. Most schools that request interviews rate them as being very important in determining whether students will be accepted.
Behavioral & Mental Health Care Careers #6. Financial Support
Access links at http://www.indiana.edu/~PSYUGRAD/gradschool/financial.php

Financial support for graduate school may come in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, teaching or research assistantships.

The types of aid that will be available to you as a graduate student may differ from those you were eligible for as an undergraduate. Explore Types of Aid and consider making an appointment with a Financial Aid Advisor to discuss resources you can use to find scholarships, grants, and loans.

As you explore graduate schools, look for information about financial support and contact them to ask questions.

Application Fee Waiver Programs: If you're currently receiving need based financial aid, you may qualify for the application fee waiver program at many institutions. Contact the admissions office at those institutions to find out what you have to do.

Loan Repayment & Loan Forgiveness Programs

- Income-Based Repayment (IBR) & Pay As You Earn (PAYE) are repayment options for federal student loans that help borrowers keep their loan payments affordable with payment caps based on their income and family size.

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers the opportunity to have their student loans repaid for serving communities in need.

- Public Service Loan Forgiveness is a program for federal student loan borrowers who work in eligible jobs. The PSLF program will forgive remaining debt after 10 years of eligible employment and qualifying loan payments.

Scholarships: Explore external scholarships worth billions of dollars.

Examples of scholarships and loan forgiveness programs from professional societies & employers:

- The Indiana Child Welfare Education and Training Partnership will help DCS employees pay tuition for a Masters in Social Work degree - once you have the MSW degree you can begin working toward an LCSW license to be employed as a counselor.

- The Ohio School Psychologists Association offers scholarships to graduate students.

- The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) has worked to make OTs who work with children, adolescents, and veterans eligible for additional loan forgiveness.
Use Accrediting Body Websites to Get Complete Listings – below are Indiana programs for example...

**CACREP - Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs** is an independent agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit master's degree programs in: career counseling, college counseling, community counseling, gerontological counseling, marital, couple, and family counseling/therapy, mental health counseling, school counseling, student affairs. CACREP lists 16 accredited Master’s programs in Indiana and includes links to each program. You’ll have to read carefully about each program to determine which ones will prepare you for licensure:

- Ball State University, School Counseling M.A.
- Ball State University, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.A. (Does prepare students for LMHC licensure).
- Butler University, School Counseling, M.S.
- Grace College, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, M.A. (Does prepare students for LMHC licensure).
- Indiana State University, Mental Health Counseling, M.S. (May prepare students for LMHC licensure).
- Indiana State University, School Counseling, M.S.
- Indiana University, Community Counseling, M.S
- Indiana University, Mental Health Counseling, M.S./Ed.S. (Does prepare students for LMHC licensure).
- Indiana University, School Counseling, M.S.
- Indiana University – South Bend, Community Counseling, M.S.
- Indiana University – South Bend, School Counseling, M.S.
- Indiana Wesleyan University, Community Counseling, M.A.
- Indiana Wesleyan University, Marital, Couple, and Family Counseling/Therapy, M.A.
- Indiana Wesleyan University, School Counseling, M.A.
- Purdue University, School Counseling, M.Ed.
- Valparaiso University, Mental Health Counseling, M.A. (Does prepare students for LMHC licensure).

**CSWE - Council on Social Work Education** - Commission on Accreditation confers accreditation status on schools of social work and baccalaureate social work programs. Indiana accredited programs

Indiana University – Indianapolis, Gary, South Bend
School of Social Work
Program Level: Masters
http://socialwork.iu.edu/academic_programs/msw_program_indinapolis/msw_program_indianapolis_welcome.html

University of Southern Indiana
Social Work Department
Program Level: Masters
http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/msw.asp

**COAMFTE - Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education** reviews and grants accreditation to programs at a Masters, Doctoral, and Post-Degree levels that meet or exceed Accreditation Standards.

Indiana COAMFTE accredited programs ( http://www.aamft.org/imis15/Content/Directories/MFT_Training_Programs.aspx )

Christian Theological Seminary (MA)
Website: https://inside.cts.edu/ics/Admissions/Master_of_Arts_in_Marriage_and_Family_Therapy.jnz

Purdue University-Calumet (MS)
Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Department of Behavioral Sciences
Website: http://webs.purduecal.edu/mftp/

Purdue University (PhD)
MFT Program- Fowler House
Website: http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/mft/
Use Accrediting Body Websites to Get Complete Listings – below are Indiana programs for example…

The **American Psychological Association** accredits doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, and school psychology. Accredited Doctoral Programs in Psychology (PhD & PsyD) - Clinical, Counseling, School Psychology.

**Counseling Psychology**
Ball State University (PhD) - Department of Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services  
http://cms.bsu.edu/Academics/CollegesandDepartments/Teachers/Departments/CounselingPsych/Academic/PhDProgram.aspx

Indiana University—Bloomington (PhD) - Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology  
http://education.indiana.edu/PhD/tabid/5542/Default.aspx

University of Notre Dame (PhD) - Department of Psychology  
http://psychology.nd.edu/graduate-programs/counseling/

Purdue University (PhD) - Department of Educational Studies  
http://www.edst.purdue.edu/counseling_psychology/

**Clinical Psychology**
Indiana State University (PsyD) – Department of Psychology  
http://www.indstate.edu/psychology/psydProg.htm

Indiana University—Bloomington (PhD) - Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences  
http://psych.indiana.edu/grad_programs.php

Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis (PhD) - Department of Psychology  
http://www.psynt.iupui.edu/ClinicalPsychology/Overview/

University of Indianapolis (PsyD) - School of Psychological Sciences  
http://psych.uindy.edu/doctoral.php

University of Notre Dame (PhD) - Department of Psychology  
http://psychology.nd.edu/graduate-programs/clinical-program/

Purdue University (PhD) - Department of Psychological Sciences  

**School Psychology**
Ball State University (PhD) - Department of Educational Psychology  
http://cms.bsu.edu/Academics/CollegesandDepartments/Teachers/Departments/EdPsychology/Academic/SchoolPsych/Academics/PhDtrack.aspx

Indiana State University (PhD) - Department of Communications Disorders and Counseling, School & Educational Psychology  
http://coe.indstate.edu/edcsep/edpsych/index.htm

Indiana University—Bloomington (PhD) - School of Education  