Applying to Graduate School
Outline

- Programs
- Application Components
- Choosing a Supervisor
- Timeline
- The Application is Submitted…Now what?
- FAQs
Program Types

- **Clinical**
  - Psychopathology
  - Assessment and intervention

- **Counseling**
  - "Everyday" problems; personal growth
  - Educational settings

- **Industrial/Organizational**
  - Workplace behaviour
  - Agencies and businesses

- **Clinical Neuropsychology**
  - Explore relationships between brain and behaviour
  - Academic or clinical settings

- **General Experimental**
  - Theory testing and research
  - Academic settings
Degrees

- **M.A.** = Master of Arts
- **M.Sc.** = Master of Science
- **M. Ed.** = Master of Education
- **Ph.D.** = Doctor of Philosophy (clinician-scientist vs scientist-practitioner model)
- **Psy.D.** = Doctor of Psychology
Components of an Application

- Statement of interest
- 2-3 reference letters
- Transcripts
- GREs
- CV
- Application fee (typically $100/application)
Statement of Interest

- Typically 1-2 pages in length
- Discuss your research interests, why you want to go to grad school, and why you are a good fit
- Tell a story BUT be professional
  - This is not a creative writing contest
- Have your undergraduate thesis supervisor/lab supervisor read it over
Statement of Interest - Tips

- Tailor your letters to each program
- Indicate who you wish to work with
- Discuss your research interests and how your interests may fit with your potential supervisor’s interest
  - Be specific
- Highlight your relevant experiences
Choosing a Supervisor

- **Factors to consider:** Area of expertise, style, personality, standards, ability to collaborate, track record, ability to guide beyond the program, availability

- **What to do when you are interested:**
  - Read their recent publications
  - Begin initial contact via email
  - Outline your ideas and relate it to their current work
  - Speak to their current graduate students if possible
Reference Letters

- Ask for the letters early
- Your referees should be faculty who know you well, outside of a classroom context
- Provide your referees with specific instructions
Transcripts

- Order them early
- Need to be mailed to each institution you apply to
- Typically costs $10 - $12 per transcript
GRE (Graduate Record Exam)

- Standardized test used around the world
- Required for a variety of different graduate programs
- Take the test early so that you have time to re-take it if necessary
- Psychology Test: Paper-based only
  - When: September, October, April
  - Where: See test center list at www.ets.org
An academic resume

Include education, awards/scholarships, research experience, relevant practical experience, teaching experience, publications/presentations, professional affiliations

Should be organized and descriptive

Proof read
### Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>• GREs; Prepare funding applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>• Determine programs; visit if possible; Funding applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>• Transcript requests; Letters of recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>• Finalize statements; mail applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>• Campus visit or interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>• Accept and decline offers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>• Celebrate or regroup</td>
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(APA, 2007)
The application is submitted. Now what...?

- Relax and congratulate yourself!
- Prepare for interviews
  - Practice your responses to interview questions in advance
- Why do you want to be a graduate student in (insert program name here)?
The application is submitted. Now what...?

- Why do you want to be a student in our program specifically?
- Be able to say your research interests/potential project fluidly and concisely
- Familiarize yourself with potential supervisors’ most recent publications
- Prepare questions
FAQs

- How many schools should I apply to?
- What if I do poorly on my GREs?
- Are my grades high enough?
- How important is volunteer work? Research experience?
- How should I dress for interviews?
- What if I am not accepted?
- Other questions?