

Doctoral training in Psychology

- Ψ If you take this option, you are in for another ride altogether! Everything you thought was easy about school will go out the window!
- Ψ Don't go into a doctoral program unless you want to be a psychologist more than anything else and are willing to devote 95% of your time to it!
- Ψ Psych doctorate programs are among the hardest to get into out of any other discipline. Current estimates are that 1–2% of applicants are accepted. (This is why good preparation at the undergraduate level is so important.)
- Ψ Of those, only 50% ever complete the degree. (Of course, completion rates vary by school.) Of those who never finish, most of the time it's because they never finish their dissertation. Seriously.
- Ψ If you want an easier life, marry a *really* rich person who works a lot so you can just focus on school without worrying about the bills or a part-time job (just kidding, kind of)

How to apply:

1. ***Have a B.A./B.S. or M.A./M.S. degree.*** Can apply for a Ph.D./Psy.D. degree with either a B.A./B.S. or M.A./M.S. degree. Some doctorate programs require a M.A./M.S., but most don't. It doesn't have to be in Psychology, but your life will be harder if it's not.
2. ***Decide if you want to apply to a Ph.D. or Psy.D. program.*** You have the choice of making the decision now, going to a school that offers both (in case you change your mind, which some people do), or applying to both types of programs and see who accepts you. You should know that this is a HUGE decision and you should spend a great deal of time researching different programs. The best way is to go online and look at each school's program. You can start at APA (American Psychological Association)'s website when searching programs. Also consider talking to current students at the school, current professors, and your mentors. Do not make this decision lightly—it will affect the rest of your life!
3. ***Prepare to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination).*** This is required for *all* doctorate programs. It's basically like the SAT for graduate school and is scored the same way. Of course, the higher the score, the better your chances, but no schools just look at your GRE score. Plus, the math section is way easier than the SAT. I promise.
4. ***Find out if you have to take the GRE Psych.*** This is the Psychology version of the GRE. It resembles the subject tests of the SAT and is scored the same way they are. Some programs require the GRE Psych, but some don't. This test requires more preparation, because it asks about all the subfields of psychology. It's pretty short, though (about 200 questions), and there are tons of books to help you study.
5. ***Prepare your applications.*** Application fees are usually between \$50 to \$100, which is non-refundable. All good schools require interviews. Make the effort to do in-person interviews whenever possible!