

Summer A 2003
Preparing for Graduate Study in Psychology
(PSY 4905)

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The purpose of this course is to assist you in your preparation for graduate study in psychology. It is designed to help you explore a wide range of possible graduate careers, and to understand better how to develop the skills and experiences that will maximize your chances of gaining admission into the programs of your choice. In addition to an overview of career options and requisite experiences, the course also focuses on details of the graduate application process. These include the development of your resume, personal statement, letters of recommendation, interviewing skills, and a variety of other features critical to your success in gaining admission into graduate programs in your chosen area of study.

Course Materials:

1. Getting In: A Step-By-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology (2000). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association Press (Required)
2. Get Psyched! Successful Strategies for Getting into Graduate Schools in Psychology (2002). Keystone Heights: PsychoEducational Resources (Required)
3. Graduate Study in Psychology (2003). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association Press (Required)
4. Insider's Guide to Graduate Schools in Clinical and Counseling Psychology (2002-2003). New York: Guilford Publications. (Optional)

Requirements and Grading

The course is offered on a 1-credit Pass/Fail basis. You will receive a pass if you complete all of the required assignments in a satisfactory way. Each assignment will receive a grade of a "plus", a "check" or a "minus". All assignments are due by Thursday, June 12, unless otherwise stipulated. Any assignment that is turned in late is

automatically given a "minus" grade.

Extra-Credit

You can compensate for up to three "minuses" on your assignments by completing up to three extra-credit experiences (to be announced in class). These extra-credit opportunities will involve your participation one or more course-related professional development experiences. These may include research experiences, skills-based workshops or presentations, practice graduate school telephone interviews, or other opportunities, as discussed in class. Each of these experiences provides you with opportunities to prepare for, and better understand, the nature of graduate school and the graduate school application process. In order to receive an "S" in the course, all assignments must be completed at the level of a "check" or better, so *you are strongly encouraged to complete three extra-credit opportunities* as "insurance" against your turning in a deficient or delinquent assignment.

Readings and Assignments for this course are detailed in the attached schedule of assignments.

Special Note

This course will be evaluated at the beginning and the end of the semester as part of a research project to study the effectiveness of a graduate preparation seminar. Your participation in this research is completely optional and will not effect your grade in any way, favorably or unfavorably. Participating in the study will be on a voluntary basis and will involve the completion of a Grad Prep Quiz, a career decidedness measure, and a series of questions regarding your assessment of the graduate preparation process. All responses are confidential, though you will have an opportunity to see your pre-post changes if you would like to. Details of this project are contained in the attached Informed Consent.

Week	Reading	Assignment
1	<u>Getting In</u> : Chapters 1 and 2 <u>Get Psyched!</u> : Tape 2	#1 Assessments and CRC Tour (Grad School Interview #1-Optional)
2	<u>Getting In</u> : Chapters 3 and 4 <u>Get Psyched!</u> Tape 1	#2 Complete SIGI Plus online #3 Practice GRE test
3	<u>Getting In</u> : Chapter 5 <u>Get Psyched!</u> Tape 3 <u>Graduate Study</u> <u>Insider's Guide</u>	#4 Develop a Resume' #5 Researching Grad Schools Online
4	<u>Getting In</u> : Chapter 6 <u>Get Psyched</u> : Tape 4 <u>Graduate Study</u> <u>Insider's Guide</u>	#6 Develop Personal Statement
5	<u>Get Psyched!</u> : Tape 5 <u>Graduate Study</u>	#7 Develop Thumbnail Sketch #8 Identify Five Prospective Programs
6	<u>Getting In</u> : Chapter 7 <u>Get Psyched!</u> : Tape 6	(Grad School Interview #2-Optional) Course Evaluations

Class**Topic**

Tues, May 13 th Thurs., May 15 th	Overview of course structure, assignments and assessments Things you need to know before pursuing grad study in Psychology
Tues, May 20 th Thurs., May 22 nd	Office of Community Resources and GRE Career Decision Making and SIGI Interpretation
Tues., May 27 th Thurs., May 29 th	Overview of the Application Process Developing Your Resume
Tues., June 3 rd Thurs., June 5 th	Graduate Student Advisory Board Personal Statements, Resumes and Recommendations
Tues, June 10 th Thurs., June 12 th	Interviewing for Graduate School Professional Panel
Tues., June 17 ^h Thurs., June 19 th	Decision Making Wrap-up and Evaluations