

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the program APA-accredited?

The Psychology PhD program at East Tennessee State University received accreditation by the APA effective April 17, 2012.¹

How long is the PhD program?

Both PhD programs are designed as four-year post-baccalaureate programs of study, however, those in the clinical program will need to add one additional calendar year to complete a clinical internship. Students earn a master's degree en route as part of the doctoral degree requirements. Students seeking terminal master's degrees are not accepted. Because there are practical and independent research requirements in addition to structured coursework, it is common for PhD students in clinical psychology program to take longer to graduate than the 5 years of program design.

May I enroll in the program on a part-time basis?

No, the program must be matriculated as a full-time student. Similar to medical school, one cannot complete this type of program on a part-time basis. Thus, it is our intent to support every student who enrolls with graduate assistantships and tuition waivers.

I do not have an undergraduate degree in Psychology. May I still apply to the clinical program?

Yes, students in related undergraduate degree programs are often interested in graduate work in psychology, and are welcome to apply. There are 18 undergraduate hours in psychology that are required, however, to ensure at least some foundation work in psychology has been completed. Required courses include introductory psychology, statistics, research methods, abnormal psychology, personality psychology, and history and systems of psychology.

Is the program going to be offered online?

There are components of courses that are supported with online material, but the nature of psychology training requires face-to-face training experiences, in our opinion. There is no course that is offered online, much less the whole program.

I took the GRE years ago. Do I have to take it again?

GRE scores up to five years old may be used in the application. GRE scores older than five years cannot be submitted.

¹ Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org / Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

I have a master's degree in a related discipline; will I have to complete the entire program?

If you have an equivalent master's degree in Psychology, you can be admitted post-masters. However, you should expect to have to take most of the master's courses in the current program; every course taken prior to admission will be compared to our program's courses, and each course must be individually approved by the current course instructor and the DCT/DET. Practicum courses will not be waived. If you have a master's degree in a related discipline such as social work, counseling, or others, you may petition upon acceptance to have up to nine hours of graduate work transferred to this program. If you have already completed a master's thesis, you may petition to have the thesis requirement waived.

I want to go to graduate school, but I'm not sure that I want to go all the way to the PhD. May I be admitted for just the master's portion and decide later?

No, there is no longer a terminal master's program in psychology at ETSU, so all applicants must apply to the MA/PhD combined program with the expectation of completing the doctorate.