

Admission Requirements

To be accepted into the Ph.D. program students must apply for, and engage in, full time study. Applicants to the MA/PhD degree program are evaluated once each year, only for admission in the fall semester; applicants are not considered for spring admission. All application information must have been received by the Office of Graduate Studies by December 1st for the Clinical Program and January 15th for the Experimental Program for a candidate to be considered for admission in the following fall term. Students are admitted from two applicant pools, dependent upon their level of preparation. All applications are considered with the expectation that the applicant will pursue the PhD. Students seeking a terminal master's degree will not be admitted. The two applicant pools are:

1. Students holding a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution will be considered for the MA/PhD program. Students admitted to the Clinical or Experimental Psychology PhD program complete the requirements for an MA in Clinical or Experimental Psychology en route to PhD completion.
2. Students already holding the MA or MS in psychology from a regionally accredited institution may also apply to the MA/PhD program. The master's degree must be commensurate with the MA program in Clinical or Experimental Psychology at ETSU and involve the successful completion of an empirically-based thesis project. Students possessing a master's degree without an empirically-based thesis will be required to complete an empirically-based thesis before being admitted to doctoral candidacy. All students accepted into the PhD Program will be required to take additional coursework.

The following application materials are required:

1. Completed University application forms;
2. A grade point average of at least 3.00 (based on a 4.00 scale) in undergraduate and/or graduate level work overall and in Psychology courses;
3. A minimum of 18 semester hours in undergraduate psychology, including courses in statistics, experimental design, personality, social, cognitive, developmental, and abnormal psychology. Students lacking some of these prerequisite courses, but presenting

an exceptional undergraduate record, may be granted graduate admission, but they will be expected to remove all undergraduate deficiencies during their first academic year;

4. GRE scores (Verbal, Quantitative, and Written Analysis) are required for application and are taken into account in the admissions process;

5. Letters of recommendation from at least three persons familiar with the applicant's academic background, aptitude for graduate study, and future performance as a psychologist;

6. A personal statement of 500-1000 words indicating the applicant's academic experiences, research interests, and career goals. Prior undergraduate research interests and involvement are weighted heavily as is an interest and commitment to working in a rural and/or primary care setting. **This is in addition to the graduate school personal statement requirements;**

7. A willingness to be interviewed by members of the admission committee;

8. A CV

Offers and Acceptances

First-round offers are made in writing prior to April 1st. A response is not required until April 15th (or the first Monday after April 15th, if April 15th falls on a weekend). Between April 1st and the decision date, offers may be made to students over the phone when a position opens. These verbal offers are official, but will be followed by a written confirmation within 48 hours. After being made, offers cannot be withdrawn by the university until after the decision date and then can be withdrawn only if the student fails to respond to the offer by the decision date. After the April 15th decision date, if there are more open slots, offers may be made. If an offer is made after the decision date, the length of time to make a decision on the offer will be clearly stated. The length of time may vary, but students will have at least a week in which they may visit the university before making a decision.

Transfer of Credit

Students with graduate credit earned at another institution, upon matriculation at ETSU, may petition to have these credits applied toward their degree requirements at ETSU. While such credits are not automatically transferred and must be approved by the Director of Clinical

Training (DCT) or Director of Experimental Training (DET) and the School of Graduate Studies, a maximum of 9 semester hours earned elsewhere could be applied. See the ETSU Graduate Catalog for more details. Though students holding a master's degree may not be required to complete a second master's degree, they should expect to have to complete substantial components within the master's, in that all required courses have to be accepted as equivalents or taken within the program.

Waiving Course Requirements

Students may petition to waive specific courses through petition. The designated course instructor, along with at least one other clinical or experimental program faculty member, will review petitions. Upon receipt of the petition, the DCT/DET will send a current ETSU course syllabus to the student for review. The written petition must address how prior coursework is equivalent, and equivalency is defined as demonstrating achievement of each and every learning objective of the ETSU course to be waived. The written petition must be accompanied by the previously completed course syllabus and any work products relevant to supporting the petition narrative. In some cases the CV of the instructor of record will be required. All materials will be submitted by the DCT/DET to the ETSU clinical or experimental faculty representatives for review and recommendation. Petitions to waive specific courses must be submitted for review prior to the end of the student's first semester at ETSU.

Empirical Thesis Acceptance

All students must complete an empirically-based thesis. Students entering the program who have already completed a master's thesis must have that thesis accepted by a three-member faculty committee. The student is responsible for submitting a copy of the thesis to the DCT/DET for dissemination. The thesis is to be submitted, reviewed, and either accepted or rejected during the student's first semester of study to allow adequate time for a new thesis project to be conducted if required. In any case, the student must complete the written and oral components of the clinical capstone project and preliminary project prior to being admitted into doctoral candidacy. Students entering the program with a master's degree from another institution who have not completed a thesis as part of that master's program will be required to complete an empirical thesis in the current program.

