

How to Select a Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology

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You have an offer(s)...now what??



Consider the research & clinical fit

- How interested are you in research?
 - Is your potential advisor (or program in general) doing the kind of research you want to do?
 - Are there opportunities to collaborate on other research projects?
- How interested are you in clinical work?
 - Will the program/geographic area provide you with access to the populations you are interested in working with?
 - Are there practica experiences that interest you?
- In general, how would the program fit your professional goals (i.e., what you want to do in the future)?

Consider the advisor

- Is your potential advisor doing research you are interested in?
 - Do your research on them!
 - Read recent articles
 - Check their website
 - Look at their CV
- How does the advisor's mentoring style & personality fit with you?
 - Talk with current grad students!
- Not like applying to undergrad
 - Looking at an advisor as much or more than the school

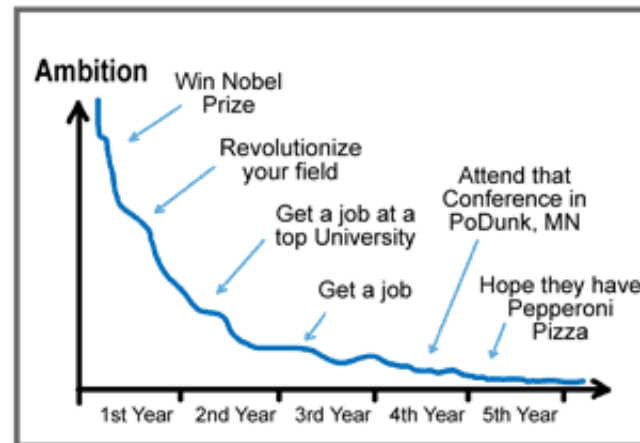
Consider the program

- Funding opportunities
 - RA/TA
 - Summer
- “Track Record”
 - Mean graduation time
 - Internship placement rate
 - Accreditation
- What is the program’s culture? The department’s?
 - Collegial?
 - Sink or swim?
- Where is the school located?
 - Important to determine where YOU want to be for the next 5-6 years
 - Diversity of population in the region?
 - Cost of living

Consider...yourself!

- Look back from your notes at the interview...
 - How did it “feel”? What were grad students saying?
- In addition to professional goals, what are your personal goals, needs, philosophies?
 - How does the program fit within these? Your advisor?

YOUR LIFE AMBITION - What Happened??



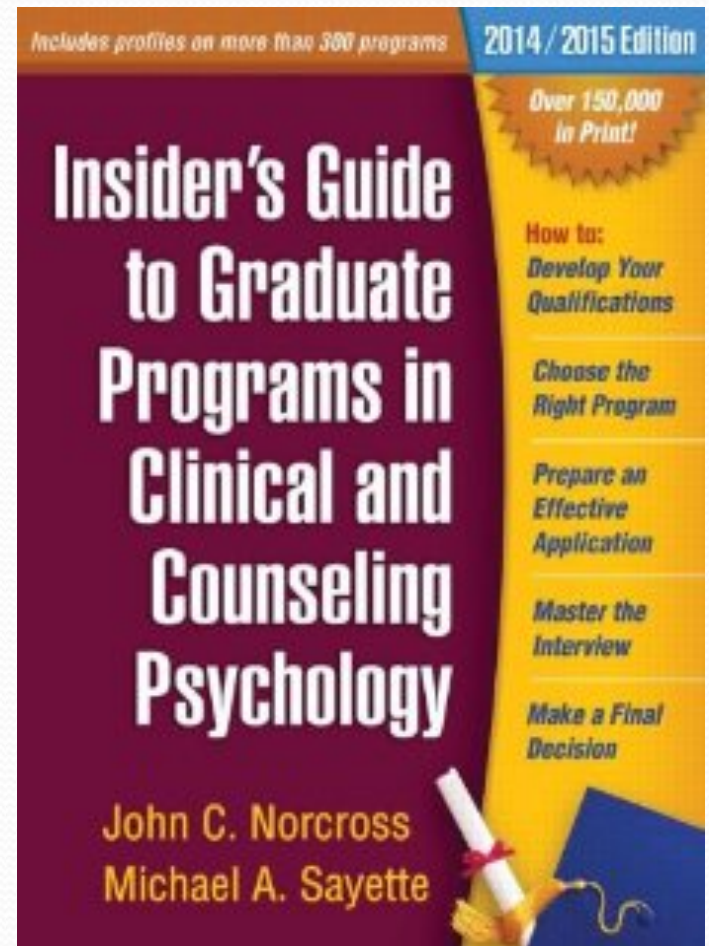
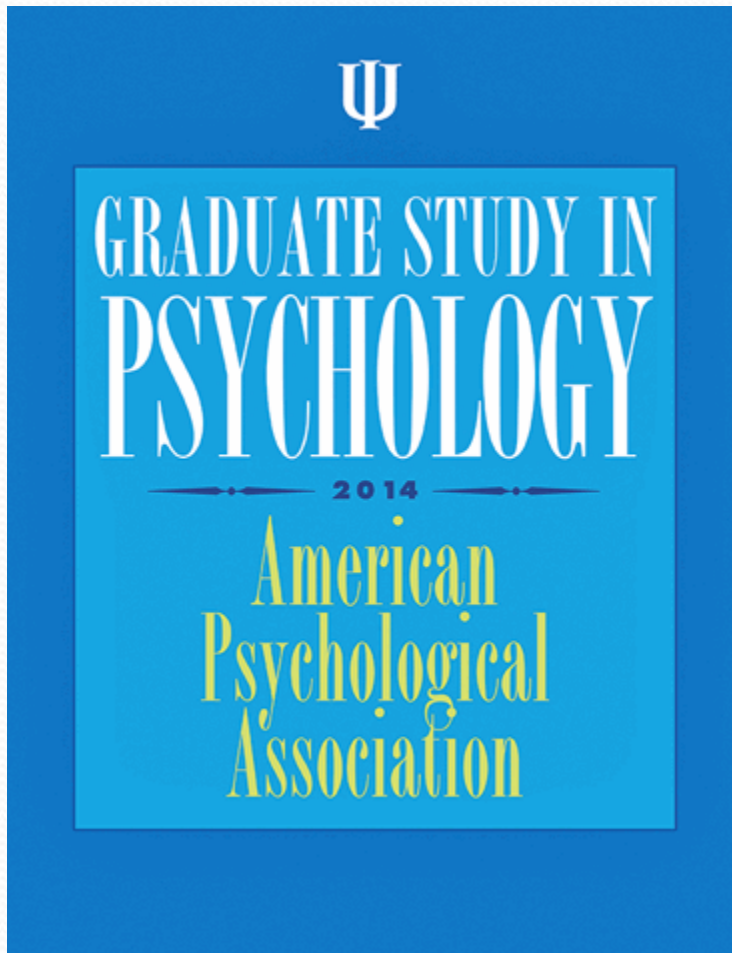
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In the final analysis...

- Each program has its pros and cons
 - What differs from program to program?
 - Weighing the components is idiosyncratic
 - Don't underestimate the “Je Ne Sais Qua” factor
- What if I only get into one program & I don't like it?
- What if I don't get in?
 - Clinical psych is extremely competitive and sometimes requires multiple tries to get in

Resources to guide you...

<http://www.apa.org/apags/>



Personal reflections on finding “the one”



If you have additional questions...

- Faculty

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- Graduate Students

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