

Union College

Clinical Advising Guide

For students planning to pursue graduate school for a Ph.D. or Psy.D. (MSW/MA/MS can do less research)

These are suggestions for those planning to apply to competitive Ph.D. programs their senior year. It is **not** a requirement or strict. **This is *the most* ambitious course plan, and students with less ambitious goals may revise accordingly.** Students may take 1-2 years to do a post-baccalaureate research assistantship or clinical position before applying, which is more common than not if you are applying for Ph.D. programs. Students from Union College's Psy/NS majors applying in their senior year are historically more successful with applications to masters or PsyD programs. NS majors interested in clinical/counseling careers may want to consider the Mental Health Care (MHC) minor. Psychology students may benefit from broader minors and don't need the addition of the MHC minor to be competitive for graduate study.

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Breaks: Dec and/or Summer
1st	PSY Majors: Intro Psych (100) NS majors: Intro to Neuroscience, here (210)	- Statistics (200) - Clin Psych 1: Disorders (250) - Electives/Major Requirements*** - Research practicum with a professor (291/292/293)		- Intern* or Research Assistant (RA)** Careers in Psychology Info. - Visit the Becker Career Center
2nd	- Research Methods (300) - Electives/Major Requirements*** - Research practicum (291/292/293) - PSY 354 Peer Leadership 1 (MW 3:05-4:45 PM)	- Clin Psy 2: Interventions (351) - Electives/Major Requirements*** - Research practicum (291/292/293) - PSY 355 Peer Leadership 2 (MW 3:05-4:45 PM)	- Clin Psych 3: Internship (451) - Electives/Major Requirements*** - Research practicum (291/292/293) - PSY 356 Peer Leadership 3 (MW 3:05-4:45 PM)	- Summer Internship* or Research Assistant (RA)** - Attend workshops run by to Lynn Evans about Ph.D./Psy.D. applications
3rd	- Electives/Major Requirements*** - Indep. Study (493) - Approach potential thesis advisors	- Clin Psy 2: Interventions (351) if not taken yet - Indep Study (493) - Submit research to conference (Ideal to aim for for PhD applications, timeline may vary)	- Clin Psych 3: Internship (451) – can take twice! - Can start Thesis early (487/498) - Submit thesis proposal - Present research at conference (Ideal to aim for for PhD applications, timeline may vary)	- Intern* or Research Assistant (RA)** Applying to Graduate School information - Consider taking GREs Decide on schools to apply to - Prepare applications - Make sure faculty you plan to work with (if PhD) are taking students the next year (generally posted on their websites) - Ask for letters of recommendation for the fall

4th	• Thesis (487/498) • Electives/Major Requirements*** • Submit applications (due Nov-Dec for PhD programs)	• Thesis (487/498) • Electives/Major Requirements*** • Submit thesis paper to peer-reviewed journal if possible	• Steinmetz presentation • Celebrate! • Regroup – Strengthen applications with 1-2 years RA (PhD) or clinical position (PsyD)	• Rest/prepare /move...
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* Internships: May be volunteer or paid, PT or FT. The main objective is to explore the field and gain experience. Check out the [Union College Community Service Internship Funding Awards](#)

** Gain research or clinical research experience either with faculty near home or apply for [summer research funding at Union](#).

*** Consider other [Clinical courses](#): Clinical Neuropsychology (213), Assessment and Testing (352), Health Psychology (215), Death & Dying (242), Psychology of Addictions (255), Seminar in Clinical Neuropsychology (411), Seminar in Clinical Psychology (450), Peer Leadership (354-356), Developmental Psychology (240), Educational Psychology (246), Personality Psychology (251)

Common Questions:

How can I face 5-8 more years of study and preparation before starting a real job?!

- ~ Don't get a Ph.D. unless you're passionate about psychology and research and really love school!
- ~ Graduate school is much different than undergrad: you transition from courses to real-world work over the first few years.

I don't know if I like research – I'm concerned about doing a dissertation...

- ~ Try it out first – volunteer as an undergrad with a Research Practicum
- ~ PhDs require research; PsyD program research may be less intensive; MA/MS/MSW programs do not do research.

How can I afford to go to grad school?

- ~ PhD programs provide tuition remission and a stipend that you can usually live on if you are frugal/live with roommates.
- ~ Some PsyD/MA/MS/MSW programs may offer financial aid, inquire/research your schools.
- ~ You may have paid positions later on in PsyD/PhD programs.
- ~ MA/MS/MSW are typically 2 years, so take less time than undergraduate.
- ~ Loans are deferred during graduate school.
- ~ Look into loan repayment programs if you work in underserved areas following graduation.

What is the best way to choose a graduate program?

- ~ Try out different things to see what interests you.
- ~ Interview/shadow professionals; Interview current graduate students; Get internship experience sooner rather than later.