

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) vs. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.):**

***What’s the Difference*?**

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| **Psy. D.**  **General Info.**   * **Focuses on gaining knowledge and experience in psychology** * **Less focus on research and more focus on practice** * **40% acceptance rate** * **Student receive little in respect to fellowships or assistantships**   ***Source*: Norcross et al. (2004)**  **Career Options**   * **May work part-time in university or college setting** * **Most work in independent practices, hospitals, managed care, or in another position related to human services**   ***Source*: APA Center for Workforce Studies (2004)**  **Duration of Program**   * **Average length of Psy.D. is 4-6 years** * Will complete doctoral internship   ***Source*:** Society of Clinical Psychology (2014)  **Programs Offered**  **Psy.D.s in Psychology include but are not limited to:**   * **Clinical** * **Counseling** * **School** * **Organizational**   **Psy. D.**  **Requirements**   * Minimum GPA: 3.00 - 3.25 * Median GPA is a bit lower than a Ph.D. program, usually closer to a 3.3 * Average minimum GRE:   + 500 (Verbal)   + 500 (Quantitative)   + 500 (Analytical) * Median GRE score for each section ranges from 525-600 per section.   *Source:* APA (2014)  **Required Courses**  Most require Introduction to Psychology, Statistics, Abnormal, and Personality. Some also prefer Developmental, History of Psychology, and Test and Measurements (varies from program to program).  *Source:* APA (2014) | **Ph.D.**  **General Info.**   * **Focuses on research more than on clinical practice** * **Ph.D. programs are** set up to produce psychologists who can both understand/apply research and also do it * 8% acceptance rate (counseling) * 6% acceptance rate (clinical) * better options for funding, including fellowships and assistantships for Ph.D. candidates   *Source*: Mayne, Norcross, & Sayette (2006)  **Career Options**   * Many work full-time in university or college settings * Large portion also work in independent practices, hospitals, or within a business or government office   *Source*: APA Center for Workforce Studies (2011)  **Duration of Program**   * Average length of Ph.D. is 6-7 years * Will complete doctoral internship * Will complete dissertation   *Source*: Society of Clinical Psychology (2014)  **Programs Offered**  Ph.D.s in Psychology include but are not limited to:   * Clinical * School * Counseling * Educational * Forensic * General * Health * Organizational * Social   **Ph.D.**  **Requirements**   * Minimum GPA: 3.0 – 3.25 * Median GPA: 3.4 – 3.6 (clinical psychology programs lean more towards 3.6). * Median Psychology GPA: 3.6 – 3.7 * Average Minimum GRE:   + 500 (Verbal)   + 500 (Quantitative) * Median GRE score for each section ranges from 550-625 per section, with the median total around 1200. * Median GRE scores for Clinical Psychology will be a bit higher * Ph.D. Programs do not typically look at the Analytical section   *Source:* APA (2014)  **Required Courses**  Most require Introduction to Psychology, Statistics, and Experimental courses. Many also require or prefer that you take Abnormal, Tests and Measurements, Developmental, Learning, or at least 2 other upper level psychology courses. Some even require Math or Science or Language (varies from program to program).  *Source:* APA (2014) |

**For more information please visit the following websites:**

* <http://chiron.valdosta.edu/dbriihl/gradschool.html>
* <http://www.csun.edu/~hcpsy002/Clinical%20Versus%20Counseling%20Psychology.pdf>
* <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs/clinical.aspx>
* www.apa.org

References

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APA Center for Workforce Studies. (2004). 2001: Doctoral employment survey. Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/01-doc-empl/index.aspx

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Mayne,T.J., Norcross, J.C., & Sayette, M.A. (2006). *Insider’s Guide to Graduate Programs in Clinical and Counseling Psychology.* NY: Guilford Press.

Norcross, J. C., Castle, P. H., Sayette, M. A., & Mayne, T. J. (2004). The PsyD: Heterogeneity in practitioner training. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 35, 412-419.

Society of Clinical Psychology. (2014). *What is the difference between a Ph.D. and a Psy.D. in psychology?.* Retrieved from http://www.div12.org/sites/default/files/DifferenceBetween PhDandPsyD.pdf