

**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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