

The Top 10 List for Getting into Grad School

1. Experience and Research

- Work in a research lab
- Participate in an internship
- Serve as an undergrad teaching assistant
- Find a job that incorporates your future career

2. GPA

- Most important aspect of application
- Need over a 3.0 (3.2 for PhD) undergrad & psychology GPA to be competitive
- If you are worried about your GPA, put higher emphasis on your other achievements

3. Pre-Requisite Courses

- Pre-requisite GPA is just as or even more important than your overall GPA
- Look up pre-req requirements for grad program ahead of time
- Retake any pre-req courses below a B

4. Volunteer Work

- Volunteer for something you're passionate about that relates to future career
- Join a club on campus
- Give back to the community while improving your knowledge in your field

5. GRE Scores

- Research program for average/acceptable scores
- Prepare well in advance by buying the book, taking practice tests, & studying!
- Take the test early to avoid stress and allow the opportunity to retake if needed

6. Personal Statement

- Critical part of the grad school panel getting to know you
- Communicate a match between you and the program
- Avoid too much self-revealing personal information

7. Select the Right School and Make a Plan to Apply

- Use graduateguide.com to select a program that matches your career goals
- Make a plan to get all parts completed; personal statement, CV, test scores, recommendation letters

8. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Tailor your CV to the requirements of the program
- Be very detailed in describing your academic endeavors
- Visit career services to get help designing

9. Recommendation Letters

- Build relationships with your instructors, advisors, and supervisors to get a stand out recommendation letter
- Choose professors who relate to your chosen academic field
- Request letters early and send thank you's

10. Interview Preparation

- Research each grad school extensively before & gather as much info as you can
- Compile a list of questions to show your genuine interest in the program
- Make a strong impression and show how you are a great fit to their program