



Department of Psychology  
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## **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When is the application deadline?**

- Our application deadline is February 15th of each year

### **What kind of financial assistance do you offer?**

- We offer a very competitive financial package which includes tuition and relevant paid work. We typically pay for 70-100% of students' tuition. Students also work 20 hours per week in one of our applied settings or as a teaching assistant and are paid an hourly wage for this work.

### **Is the program full or part time?**

- The program at Pacific is a full-time "in-residence" graduate program. This means there is a 45-65 hour per week commitment in the department that includes classes, research, and TA or clinical responsibilities.
- Students are expected to live near campus throughout the duration of the program, meaning until they complete the thesis requirement.

### **Is it online or in-person?**

- The program is entirely in-person. There is no online or hybrid option.

### **Does the program prepare me to take the BACB® exam? What is your exam pass rate?**

- We focus both on preparing students to enter doctoral programs and to take the BACB® exam.
- The Association for Behavior Analysis International has verified the following courses toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® or Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® examination. Applicants will need to meet additional requirements before they can be deemed eligible to take the examination.
- Students with clinical responsibilities have the opportunity to accrue enough applied experience to sit for the BACB® exam when they complete the program.
- Our BACB® Examination Pass Rate for the years 2015 - 2019 is 100%: <https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BCBA-Pass-Rates-Combined-20200422.pdf> (p.15)

### **Will this program prepare me for a Ph.D. program?**

- We focus on preparing students for doctoral programs in behavior analysis and behavioral clinical/counseling psychology.
- We have a nearly 100% acceptance rate into Ph.D. programs.

### **Can I practice as a licensed therapist after completing your program?**

- We do **not** offer an MFT, LCSW, or counseling program. You **cannot** practice as a therapist when you are done with our program.

### **What prerequisite coursework and research experience are required?**

- Competitive applicants typically have:
  - a BA/BS degree in psychology or a related field and coursework that includes at minimum Research Methods, Statistics, and Introduction to Psychology
  - relevant research experience (e.g., with a faculty member) and/or applied experience (e.g., work at an autism treatment agency, mental health clinic, etc.).
- Although not a requirement, most, but not all, competitive applicants typically have taken at least one course in behavioral principles or applied behavior analysis.
- We do not transfer in courses taken in other graduate programs or at other institutions.

### **What is the minimum GPA requirement?**

- Although our minimum required GPA is 3.0, successful applicants typically have a 3.5 or better.

### **Do you require the GRE?**

- Although we have required the GRE General Test in the past, we have put this requirement on an indefinite hold. So, in short, we are not requiring the GRE this year.

### **What is your admission rate?**

- We have a competitive admissions process and typically take 5 to 8 students per year.

### **If I am awarded a graduate assistantship in my first year, is the assistantship guaranteed for my second year?**

- Assistantships are determined from year-to-year depending on funding and student performance. Generally speaking, students who are awarded assistantships in their first year have been awarded the same assistantship in their second year, but it is not guaranteed.

### **How is the stipend for assistantships disbursed throughout the year?**

- The stipend for teaching assistantships is paid bi-weekly for 9-months during the academic year. Teaching assistantships are not paid over the summer. Teaching assistants often find other means of making money over the summer. Clinical assistantships are also paid bi-weekly, but clinical students are typically employed across 12-month.

**When would I learn the details of my admission, including if I was awarded an assistantship and if I am receiving tuition assistance from the university?**

- Notification about assistantships and tuition assistance are typically sent sometime between mid-March and early-April.

**Are students who pursue doctoral programs upon completion of the program able to finish their coursework and thesis within 2 years?**

- Generally speaking, students do not defend their thesis by the end of their second academic year. It usually takes students 2 to 3 full years (e.g., August 2024 to August 2026 or August 2027) to finish all program requirements, including the thesis. Students who are interested in doctoral programs should talk about that goal with their advisor as soon as possible.

**For students who go on to doctoral programs, are they typically able to have their coursework/credits and thesis transfer to the doctoral program, or do students typically re-earn their master's?**

- We cannot answer this question because it depends on the university. Students should ask the specific PhD program about transferring coursework.

**How often do students in the program typically meet with their faculty advisor? Is it usual for this to happen weekly or every other week?**

- The details of meeting can vary across advisors. However, advisors typically meet with students once or twice per week.

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