General Admissions Criteria and Procedures for the Clinical Psychology PhD Program

The faculty review applications to the clinical program according to the specific area of focus that the student is applying for: adult clinical, child/family or pediatric health clinical, or health clinical. Because we have a mentor model of training, faculty who are planning to admit a student to their lab will first review all the applicants who indicate an interest in working with them. Then, faculty typically meet in December or early January to review potential candidates to invite to interview for admission to the program. Applicants may be further screened by phone or Zoom interviews to narrow down the pool of potential applicants to those with the best fit and who have credentials suitable to succeeding in the graduate program. The best applicants overall are invited to interview at UM in Jan-Feb of the academic year. (These interviews will likely take place remotely via Zoom for 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

The clinical program has general consensus guidelines for admission, which include: a) undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or higher; b) research experience and interests; c) 3 strong letters of recommendation (at least 1 from a research advisor); d) positive faculty reviews during Interview Weekend, and e) favorable mention of communication/interpersonal skills in letters of reference. With respect to the GRE’s, we prefer verbal scores above the 70th percentile and GRE quantitative scores above the 50th percentile; however, these are not firm criteria and may be de-emphasized or discarded for a variety of reasons (e.g., applicant is from an underrepresented minority or has English as a second language). In such cases, more weight may be placed on undergraduate or graduate coursework.

During interviews for admission, each applicant is interviewed by at least two members of the clinical faculty. The faculty meet to discuss the strongest applicants and the availability of funding before offers of admission are made. Offers are typically made in February to early March, with a deadline of April 15th for the decisions.