

## \*\*\*\* PSYCHOLOGY LAB ORIENTATION – Research, Study, Books, Advice

- I. Psychology Lab Orientation
- II. Reading and Writing Psychology Papers
- III. Graduation Requirements: GELS, Major, Electives (Minor)
- IV. Graduate School Planning and Admissions

### I. Psychology Lab Orientation

### II. Reading and Writing Psychology Papers

APA Publication manual covers many details on writing papers. The Library has other good reference books. Chapter 1 of the APA Manual is a great introduction to papers written for psychology by psychology scholars, covering why dissemination of knowledge is important, the different types/modes of articles/dissemination, ethics, etc. Chapter 2 outlines the basic parts of a full, empirical research article. Chapter 3 has a nice summary on writing style (e.g., orderly & precise writing; grammar; avoiding bias in language-take care in labeling concepts, recognize participants, and so on, also consider treatment of gender, race, age, etc.).

Understanding the research paper also helps one when reading and comprehending the articles we read (see handout). We have a whole course on doing research papers, but we also should try out a little reading of papers (exercise).

Research papers are NOT the only type you might read/write. Review papers, thesis projects, oral presentations, and poster presentations are just some alternatives to the more “typical” empirical research report. (Chapter 6 of the older, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, of the APA Manual had a nice section on these alternatives.)

### III. Graduation Requirements:

#### A. GELS —> GE + LS (tracked on GELS form or online in DARS)

1. General Education (Goal Areas, MN Transfer Curriculum)
2. Liberal Studies (Upper Division Work, courses 300+ on list)

#### B. MAJOR Area of Study

Psychology Major is tracked using a paper worksheet  
Declare your major using the Declaration form for CPS

#### C. Electives: “Optional” additional credits to reach minimum needed to graduate

Transfer work or Courses/Experiences of Interest to student

A Minor or 2<sup>nd</sup> Major (not required) – outside of Major Area

Ideas: Gerontology, Disability Studies, Violence Prevention, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, Advertising, Human Resource Management, Training & Adult Development

### IV. Graduate School Planning and Admissions

MA/MS (general);

MA/MS/MSW (counseling/clinical – “applied”)

Ph.D. (General Area – “Scientist”)

Ph.D. (“Scientist-Practitioner” – “applied”)

Psy.D. (“Practitioner” – applied)

M.D. (Psychiatry)

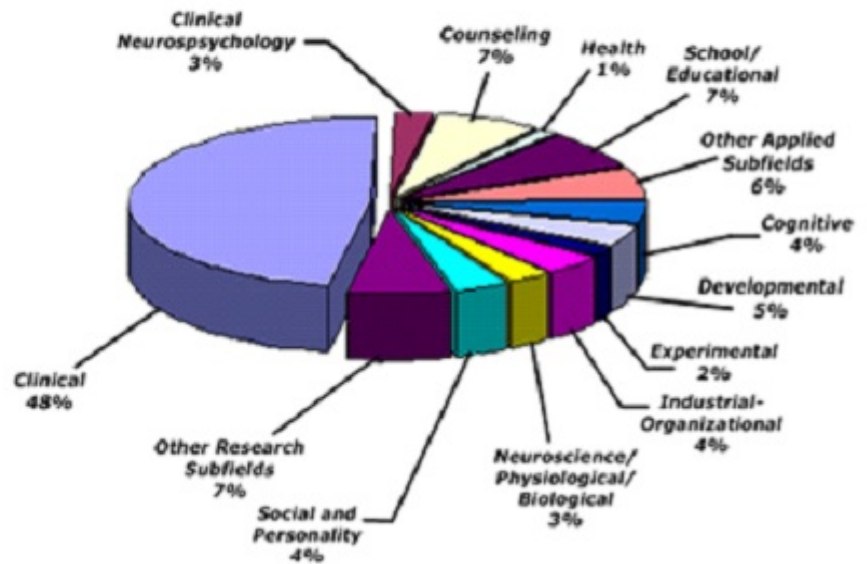
\*\*\* Consider the type of license you may want (if any at all)

Admissions vary by program, but often rely on:

- \*Undergraduate Courses taken and Grades
- \*References
- \*Entrance Exams (e.g., GRE, general and/or subject)
- \*Field/Work/Research Experiences
- \*Admissions Essay/Personal Statement (clear communication matters!)
- \*Match between Applicant and Program Faculty (“Fit”)

If you decide to seek a particular degree, you must select a program. There are many choices in applied areas such as counseling/clinical, fewer in the more general areas. A wider geographical area will yield more options. Statistics (Table 6-1, p. 84) and tough roads to graduate schools outlined in books and by instructors/advisors are partly correct. But, there is a bright side too, look at the numbers accepted! Work on making yourself stronger in whatever areas you can, become strong in areas that match your career goals. Consider alternatives to the “Ph.D. from a top University” – these alternatives satisfy many people’s goals.

## New Doctorates in Psychology, by subfield (2003-2004)



Source, APA, posted at [http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/subfield\\_profile.html](http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/subfield_profile.html)

For related information, see the APA Center for Workforce Studies (CWS) at:

<http://www.apa.org/workforce/about/index.aspx>

For example – getting into doctoral programs:

see APA info at <http://www.apa.org/education/grad/applying.aspx>

<http://www.apa.org/workforce/snapshots/2007/figure-13.aspx>