

What's Next If I Am Denied?

If you have heard back from the Graduate Admissions Office that you have not been granted acceptance to the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at LIU: Post, we would like to offer you some basic advice for next steps to take in terms of your graduate education path.

First, know that we received close to 300 applications every year. The applicant pool becomes more competitive every year, which is a wonderful thing for the field of clinical psychology.

A number of factors go into the admission committee's decisions when reviewing files. These include past academic performance (transcripts and GRE scores), letters of recommendation, clinical experience, research experience, personal and research statements, as well as fit with the program. When looking at ways to improve your application in order to reapply to this program, keep in mind the following:

Academic Performance

- Our incoming student cohorts have had an average GPA is at or above 3.5 over the last ten years
- Our incoming student cohorts have had general GRE scores in the 550-700 range, around 5.0 for writing, and around 650 for the Psychology Exam.
- If your scores do not fall into these ranges, you may want to consider attending a GRE prep course and retaking the exam.

Experience

- Our students typically have previous clinical experience, and/or experience researching in the field.
- Our students typically receive in-depth letters from recommenders that include information about recent achievements in clinical experiences and/or classroom settings. We always look for at least one comprehensive academic reference.
- Our students typically have a wide-range of clinical and research backgrounds.
- Pre-doctoral clinical experience can be received in a number of ways. Applicants should see the American Psychological Association's website for more information on such opportunities.

Personal Statements and Research Statements

- One of the main things that sets denied applicants apart from those who have been accepted is the depth of their knowledge of the field and their commitment to clinical practice that comes across both in their statements and in their interview.
- Applicants whose backgrounds and experience are diverse are able to offer the program a wide range of experience in which to pull from as students begin their training here.
- Our program is a very close-niche program in which interpersonal relationships are key to getting the most out of our training. Self-reflection, diverse experiences, as well as academic aptitude are all integral pieces to highly qualified applicants.

“Fit” with the Program

- As many of our current students have put it, “fit” with a program is often hard to define. As a Psy.D. program, the clinical basis of our work is an important piece of deciphering applicants’ interest in the program. The clinical training requires a tremendous amount of dedication, time, effort, and ability.
- We maintain a relatively small court of students who should be aligned with our program mission and concentrations. Applicants with interest in other areas that we do not cover (forensic applications, neuropsychology, addictions, behavioral health, etc.) should consider other programs more in line with their progressive professional goals.

If you find that you are not yet ready to re-apply, there are a few other options you may want to pursue. First, look into other programs at LIU: Post. Our graduate programs in Applied Behavioral Analysis (in the main Psychology Department), in Mental Health Counseling (in the College of Education, Information and Technology), and in Social Work (in the School of Health Professions and Nursing) are often programs our applicants ultimately choose. These programs open up many career opportunities for those looking to enter the field of mental health professions. While these programs are not associated with the doctoral program and will not allow future students to waive any credits in the doctoral program, they may offer alternatives into the field of mental health that are equally fulfilling professionally.

For more information on these other mental health graduate programs at LIU: POST, please contact the following advisors:

- Applied Behavioral Analysis, Dr. Nancy Frye,
nancy.frye@liu.edu 516-299-2377
- Mental Health Counseling, Dr. James Colangelo,
James.Colangelo@liu.edu 516-299-3674
- Social Work, Betsy Klipera
Betsy.Klipera@liu.edu , 516-299-2750

Be sure to review the American Psychological Association website on graduate education at:
www.apa.org