

**The Queens College Undergraduate Psychology Committee**  
**Brief Overview of Applying to Graduate Programs in Psychology and Neuroscience**  
**Fall 2022**

Master's Programs	Doctoral Programs
<b>Personal Statement(s) Required (some programs ask for multiple statements)</b>	
<b>3 Letters of Recommendation</b>	
<b>Updated Resume or CV</b>	
<b>Standardized Tests:</b> General GRE is sometimes required.	<b>Standardized Tests:</b> Both General GRE and Subject GREs are sometimes required.
<b>Duration:</b> Programs are typically finished in 2-3 years.	<b>Duration:</b> Programs are typically finished in 4-8 years.
<b>Programs can be research focused or license eligible:</b>	<b>Programs can be research focused or license eligible:</b>
<b>License eligible degrees (examples):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Master's in Social Work (MSW)</li> <li>● Master's in Mental Health Counseling (MHC)</li> </ul> <b>Research focused degrees (examples):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology (MA)</li> <li>● Master of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience (MS)</li> </ul>	<b>License eligible degrees (examples):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (PhD/PsyD)</li> <li>● Doctorate in Counseling Psychology (PhD/PsyD)</li> </ul> <b>Research focused degrees (examples):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Doctorate in Social Psychology (PhD)</li> <li>● Doctorate in Neuroscience (PhD)</li> </ul>
Master's Program Costs	Doctoral Program Costs
<b>Public Colleges and Universities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Total Tuition costs around \$20,000 - \$30,000.</li> <li>● Procuring financial aid can be challenge, as most students take out loans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You can find scholarship opportunities locally through your program/school/ or professional organizations such as the APA (American Psychological Association) or APS (Association for Psychological Science).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Research assistant positions are largely unpaid, unless the research lab has a grant to pay a stipend.</li> <li>● Since most work is voluntary, you will need to prioritize your time accordingly that can meet your academic, personal, and financial needs.</li> </ul> <b>Private Colleges and Universities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most of the above items are similar here.</li> <li>● <b>Key difference:</b> Total Tuition costs from \$50,000 - \$80,000.</li> </ul>	<b>Public Colleges and Universities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Largely fully funded with yearly stipends from \$15,000 - \$30,000.</li> <li>● Generally Tuition-free.</li> <li>● Sometimes offers housing and fellowships that can be accessed within the program/university or through professional organizations like the APA, NSF (National Science Foundation) or NIH (National Institutes of Health).</li> <li>● Payment through teaching and research.</li> <li>● Student loans are sometimes (depending on circumstances) required for housing and other expenses.</li> </ul> <b>Private Colleges and Universities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most of the above items are similar here and relevant for private PhD and PsyD programs.</li> <li>● <b>Key difference:</b> PsyD programs are generally private schools and cost tuition, so student loans are a must.</li> <li>● <b>Key difference:</b> PsyD programs can cost from \$120,000 - \$200,000.</li> </ul>

### Additional Costs Considerations

- Applying to graduate school is expensive, whether it is a master's program or doctoral program.
- Application fees can range from \$65 to \$120, depending on the school.
  - If you apply to 5 schools with \$120 application fees, that's \$600 just to apply.
- GRE fees include (\$205 for general), (\$150 for subject), (\$27 per score report to send to schools). Additionally, you might want to consider taking the exam more than once if you feel your score does not meet a programs cut-off.
  - <https://www.ets.org/gre/revise/general/register/fees>
  - <https://www.ets.org/gre/subject/register/fees>
  - <https://www.ets.org/gre/revise/general/scores/send/>
- Your current institution will also ask for a fee when you request sending official transcripts to your desired programs.
  - <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/registrar/transcripts/>
- Other costs include preparing for interviews (professional attire, travel, living accommodations if interview is far from you), relocation costs if you decide to move to another state for your program, considering housing accommodations and rent, and costs related to transportation (owning a vehicle, or using public transportation).
- **If financially feasible, it is always better to apply to more than one program. Aim to apply for at least three programs. Fee reduction programs and waivers are generally available for applications and exams.**
- **Please do not let these costs deter you from applying to programs! While the costs upfront can look overwhelming, they are minimal compared to final outcome of your program admission and future career!**

### Program Admissions

- Master's programs and PsyD programs are less competitive than PhD programs.
- This is not to say master's programs and PsyD programs won't be a challenge for admission, just that the competition is greater for PhD programs because of the amount of resources they provide for potential students.
- **For all programs, you will need to meet its minimum requirements (GPA, GRE Scores, Transcript).**
  - Typically, competitive applicants for master's programs have at least a 3.0 GPA, while for doctoral programs applicants have above a 3.5 GPA. This is not to say you cannot apply to doctoral programs with a 3.0 GPA, but it will be challenge for admissions.
- Where your application stands out is through strong letters of recommendation, a strong personal statement, a strong CV, and a strong interview.
  - Master's program generally do not have interviews, some do (like mental health counseling programs).
  - Doctoral programs have required interviews for admissions.
  - Doctoral interviews include meeting with faculty members, potential mentors, and current doctoral students.

#### Program deadlines:

- Research focused master's programs generally have dual/flexible deadlines in the Fall and Spring.
- License-eligible master's programs generally have Fall only deadlines.
- Full deadline guidelines are entirely dependent on the program and school, so make sure to double-check when applying.

#### Program deadlines:

- Doctoral programs by in large have their deadlines set for December for each admissions cycle.
- For example, this December's deadline (December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022) is for admissions for Fall 2023.
- Doctoral programs only have yearly admissions.