

Rutgers Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Application FAQ – Fall 2025 Application Cycle

Program Faculty considering taking a student for Fall 2023 Admission:

Luis Flores, Evan Kleiman, Teresa Leyro, Jessica Hamilton

Clinical Ph.D. Program Communication Policy: Although program applicants are encouraged to send potential program faculty mentors an email about research experience and fit, please do not be offended if the faculty member does not respond to your inquiry. Our faculty are very busy with clinical research and training! Also, please do not reach out to faculty who are not listed above; if they are not listed above, then they will not be taking a student next year. Finally, because we routinely get 500-600 applications annually, generic program emails such as “tell me more information about the program” will not be responded to, nor will requests for preliminary virtual meetings to discuss fit. Only emails exhibiting clear, specific questions and demonstrating that you’ve read our online materials will be responded to. General information on the program can be found here, please familiarize yourself with these materials prior to reaching out to potential faculty mentors: [Program Website](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does your program offer a terminal Masters degree or Psy.D. degree?

Answer. No. Students are only admitted to the clinical psychology Ph.D. Program, which admits students only in the Fall of each year. If you are interested in a terminal Masters degree or Psy.D. please check with the *Rutgers Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSAPP)*. Students in the Ph.D. program receive a Masters degree after completion of their Master thesis, but the program does not offer a terminal Masters degree.

2. Does your program offer rolling admissions?

Answer: No, we only admit new Ph.D. students in the Fall semester every year. Our next matriculation period is for Fall 2025.

3. Does your Ph.D. Program offer Online Only enrollment options?

Answer: No, the program does not offer online only options. All students are required to maintain residence near Rutgers University to facilitate education and clinical training.

4. What is the link to the Rutgers Graduate School Ph.D. Program Application portal?

Answer. This can be found on the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies website ([Rutgers SGS](#)).

5. What is the application deadline for the Clinical Ph.D. Program for this year?

Answer. We will begin reviewing applications on December 1st, 2024. Applications submitted after this deadline are not guaranteed review.

6. I want to see if I am a good fit with the program, can I schedule a consultation meeting with program administration or potential faculty mentors (via in person, phone, or Zoom)?

Answer. Unfortunately, we do not provide preliminary individual consultation meetings for applicants. We receive hundreds of applications each year (500+) and just don't have the time to meet with everyone! It would also be unfair to meet with some applicants but not others. Also, please do not visit the department in person with the expectation of meeting with program faculty about admissions. However, we do recommend you reach out via email to potential research mentors to discuss potential research ideas and potential fit with their lab. When you reach out, please be sure to have read their faculty research website and ask specific research questions; DO NOT ask faculty for a preliminary application meeting! If you need guidance on whether a clinical psychology Ph.D. is the right path for you, please consult the following resource from [CUDCP](#).

7. I'm from an underrepresented background, am I welcome in the Rutgers Clinical Ph.D. Program?

Answer. Yes! Student applicants from any background, especially those from groups traditionally under-represented in doctoral level academic programs, are not only encouraged to apply, but are essential to the success of our program. Our program values diversity, equity, and inclusion in our program, and we are actively engaged in DEI initiatives across the university and in our community. For more information on Rutgers policies on this topic, please see a personal address from the [President](#) of Rutgers.

8. How is your Clinical Ph.D. Program funded?

Answer. A student admitted to the clinical Ph.D. program will be provided with 5 full years of guaranteed financial support from Rutgers in the form of tuition remission, health insurance, parking access and a living stipend of at least \$35,000 per year of study. This stipend is typically for 10 months of the year, which can be distributed monthly across 12 months, if selected. There may be opportunities for additional funding in the summer, which can include teaching a course or conducting research in a lab (typically with your advisor). Students are not necessarily guaranteed funding after completing the 5th year of the program, and funding in the 6th year and beyond is examined on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, all students have opportunities and support in pursuing external funding of their doctoral education, which can allow for more time toward pre-doctoral research and clinical training. The same funding structure applies to international students.

9. I'm from an underrepresented background, what types of resources are available to me?

Answer. In addition to standard tuition waivers and living stipends provided to all admitted to the program, we have a vested interest in expanding and supporting applicants from underrepresented backgrounds and communities. Please feel free to reach out to our program and Department [diversity committees](#) for more information. In addition, we encourage you to visit the Rutgers [institutional website](#) to learn more about Rutgers' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities and resources."

10. Can you provide me with an application fee waiver?

Answer: Potential fee waivers must be processed through the [Rutgers Graduate School](#). We are not able to help with waiver requests.

11. Are the General GRE or Psychology Subject GRE currently required for program application?

Answer. No. Furthermore, GRE scores are not considered useful predictors of success in graduate school and are biased against those from underrepresented backgrounds (Woo et al., 2023). Therefore, GRE scores will not be used in admissions decisions even if submitted with your application.

Woo, S. E., LeBreton, J. M., Keith, M. G., & Tay, L. (2023). Bias, fairness, and validity in graduate-school admissions: A psychometric perspective. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 18*(1), 3-31.

12. What additional requirements are needed for International students applying to the program?

Answer. To apply to the Clinical Ph.D. Program, the only additional requirement for International applicants is an exam indicating substantial fluency in English, such as the TOEFL or IELTS. There is no minimum score required to apply, however a high degree of English fluency is an essential component to applicant admissions due to the clinical health service provision training requirements of the program. There may be additional Rutgers University and US Visa requirements for International Student admitted to the program before matriculation.

13. I've heard the Rutgers Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program is extremely competitive, what are the most important factors involved with admissions decisions?

Answer. Rutgers is primarily a clinical research-focused program adhering to the "Clinical Science" model of doctoral training. This means that through a mentor model (see #11 below for an overview of what a mentor model is) we train our students to think of clinical science and clinical practice as inseparable, and that all clinical work should be informed by scientific theory and research. However, we also train students to be top-notch clinicians and to be clinically

mindful even when working on more basic research programs (e.g., bench to bedside, so to speak). Therefore, a student with no prior research experience or who is uninterested in taking a deep dive into the research process while in the Ph.D. program is unlikely to be a good fit for the Ph.D. program. Students admitted to the program uniformly have in-depth research experience obtained through some/a combination of undergraduate research work, Honors thesis research, post-bac volunteer research or full-time work in professional behavioral science health-focused, or medical. For students interested only in clinical health service provision, we recommend exploring programs in the Rutgers Graduate School of Professional Psychology ([GSAPP](#)).

14. What is the Rutgers “Mentor Model” of training?

Answer. Graduate students are admitted to the Rutgers Clinical Ph.D. Program as a function of match with a specified research mentor who will guide them through all stages of their doctoral work, especially the Masters Thesis, Qualifying Exams, and Doctoral Dissertation. Identifying and discussing fit with a potential program mentor of interest within the application personal statement is essential to successful application to the program; students are admitted to the program based on total fit with the program plus fit with individual research mentors. For example, a student interested in substance use disorders would fit best in a Rutgers laboratory that does work on addictions research & treatment, but potentially is a poor fit in a lab that does work primarily on children’s attachment and emotional health. It is recommended that students reach out to individual Ph.D. program mentors to determine potential research fit. Only faculty who are officially listed on the Rutgers PhD Program website can serve as a primary program mentor.

15. When are Ph.D. Program Interviews? Are they in-person or virtual?

Answer. We typically complete application review and invite applicants for program interviews by mid-late January. Interviews are typically held from late February to early March. Because of the expense of conducting in-person interviews for applicants, we conduct interviews virtually to ensure that student financial background is not a barrier to admissions. Students provided an offer to join the program typically visit in person after an offer to determine if Rutgers and the New Brunswick, New Jersey area are a good fit for them. Currently, the Rutgers Clinical Ph.D. program is unable to provide student travel funds for the admissions process.

16. How do I learn more about the program and the research of those who may be accepting students next year?

Answer. You can learn more about our clinical program admissions here (<https://www.ruclinpsychadmissions.org/>). Each faculty member also has a lab website that provides more information about their current lab and research projects. See here:
Luis Flores: <https://www.floresreadylab.com/>
Evan Kleiman: <https://kleimanlab.org/>
Teresa Leyro: <https://psych.rutgers.edu/abusa-lab/welcome/>