

Rutgers Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Application FAQ – 2023 Application Cycle

Program Faculty considering taking a student for Fall 2023 Admission:
Vanessa Bal, Jessica Hamilton, Evan Kleiman, Teresa Leyro, Shireen Rizvi

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. What is the link to the Ph.D. Program Application portal?

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

3. What is the application deadline for the Clinical Ph.D. Program?

Answer. We will begin reviewing applications on December 1st, 2022. Applications submitted after this deadline are not guaranteed review.

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

Answer. Unfortunately, we do not provide individual consultation meetings for applicants. We receive hundreds of applications each year and just don't have the time to meet with everyone. We do recommend you reach out to potential research mentors to discuss potential research ideas and potential fit with their lab.

5. 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. Rutgers also has additional graduate funding programs meant to support doctoral study for students coming from under-represented backgrounds, [including the Dean and](#)

[Presidential fellowships](#). For more information on Rutgers policies on this topic, please see a personal address from the [President](#) of Rutgers.

6. 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 \$25,000 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.

7. 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 under-represented 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."

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

Answer. No.

9. 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.

10. 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 minded 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](#)).

11. 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.

12. What is the Clinical Ph.D. Program Part 2 application, after the application portal closes on Dec 1st?

Answer. The Rutgers School of Graduate Studies uses a single admissions portal for applicants to all Ph.D. programs. However, this does not include some of the information that is essential for our program (e.g., information about your research interests). To get essential information for the Clinical Ph.D. Program, we reach out to all program applicants after the admissions deadline to complete a brief follow up survey to obtain additional information about mentor choice and program interests. No applicant is penalized for failing to complete the Part 2 application and all primary applications are reviewed, but it is in the applicant’s best interest to complete this information, which helps us best establish program and mentor fit.

13. 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.

14. 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:

Vanessa Bal: <https://gsapp.rutgers.edu/lifespandaslab>

Samantha Farris: <https://psych.rutgers.edu/rehab-lab/home>

Jessica Hamilton: www.thehamiltonlab.org

Evan Kleiman: <https://kleimanlab.org/>

Teresa Leyro: <https://psych.rutgers.edu/abusa-lab/welcome/>

Shireen Rizvi: <https://gsapp.rutgers.edu/centers-clinical-services/DBT/dbt-ru-staff>