

# Refining the Admissions process for the Clinical Psychology PsyD program at Rutgers' Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

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## Abstract:

The clinical psychology doctoral program (Clinical Psychology PsyD) at Rutgers' Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology is one of the most selective programs for admission at the University. For a variety of reasons, the number of applications to the program have skyrocketed in recent years. The past three years, we have received about 1,000 applications for 20 spots which has created an unsustainable burden on faculty reviewers. The goals of this capstone project will be to develop a new process for reviewing applications to the Clinical PsyD program with an eye toward sustainable practices. Specifically, in collaboration with stakeholders, the new process will involve enhanced information about admitted students on our departmental website, additional screening questions in the Salesforce portal, and the development of a pre-screen process that doesn't involve faculty time. This new process will be implemented for the 2024 admission cycle.

## Primary Stakeholders:

- Prospective Applicants
- Applicants
- Application Reviewers (faculty and alumni)
- Salesforce administrators
- Department administrative assistant

## Key Steps/Activities:

1. Collect data on last 3 years of applications [Done.]
2. Get feedback and ideas from colleagues to get their views and opinions about the process. -[Done.]
3. Talk to mentor about the pros/cons of creating a new system that might reduce the number of applications to the program and other ideas for streamlining process. [Done.]
4. Come up with an initial proposal for changes to our application and present to department faculty. [Currently in progress- to be presented at end of April/early May.]
5. Incorporate feedback from faculty.
6. Finalize proposal for changes to be implemented for the 2023-2024 application cycle.

## Effectiveness Measures:

- Average amount of time spent reviewing applications should decrease.
- Qualitative survey of applicant reviewers in order to obtain anonymous feedback about our new methods and whether they are perceived as helpful or detrimental

## Communication/Engagement:

- Ongoing discussion at bimonthly departmental meetings
- High priority agenda item throughout the next admission cycle
- Feedback will be solicited at each meeting

## Proposed Timeline:

- Updates to website and Salesforce portal by June 2023
- Application due date: 12/1/2023
- Execution of new strategies for review of applications: December - January
- Selection of short-list: February 2024

## Current Status/Future Directions:

- The discussions for potential changes are underway and website redesign is in progress.
- Current faculty and staff are on board for implementing new strategies/screening processes.
- The success of this application cycle will inform future years.