

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**(Fall, 2019)**

**Regarding the Human Services Psychology (HSP) Program  
and Admission to the HSP Program**

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**What is the Human Services Psychology Program and does it differ from the Applied Developmental Psychology (ADP) Program?**

The Human Services Psychology Program is an innovative, integrative conceptual structure, encompassing three component specialty tracks in Behavioral Medicine, Clinical Psychology (APA accredited), and Community Psychology. Within the HSP Program's conceptual framework, these tracks are regarded as differing primarily in their particular focus within the human services matrix and in how they conceive of and approach the generic problems of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of psychological and physical disorders. About half of the students choose to combine tracks in their studies (see below).

The Applied Developmental Psychology Program encompasses three tracks in early development/early intervention, socioemotional development of children within and across cultures, and educational contexts of development. There is flexibility both within and between tracks. The ADP Program is designed to prepare its graduates for careers as practitioner researchers concerned with the design, evaluation and improvement of ways of enhancing the quality of human life. The ADP Program does not offer a degree in Clinical Psychology.

**Can I apply to work with an ADP faculty member if I apply for the HSP Program?**

All students in the HSP Program must have an HSP mentor. Sometimes HSP and ADP faculty will “co-mentor” a student whose research interests match both faculty members.

**What careers do most graduates from the HSP Program go into?**

Recent graduates from our Human Services Psychology Program have found initial career placements in a variety of settings which involve psychological services, teaching, and research. The majority have found employment in a variety of state and university institutions as staff psychologists, research associates and assistant professors. Recent employment settings range from Johns Hopkins University, NIH, and medical schools, to community hospitals, schools or correctional institutions. Approximately 30 percent have moved into direct service provision in private practice settings.

**What does it mean for a student to pursue multiple tracks within the HSP Program (aka being dual-track)?**

Students may pursue two tracks simultaneously within the HSP Program. These multiple track subspecialties span the differing tracks and include: Clinical/Behavioral Medicine, Clinical/Community, and Behavioral Medicine/Community Psychology.

**Is there a Child Clinical Psychology track?**

The Human Services Psychology Program does not offer a Child Clinical track, but does include a Child Clinical sub-track within the Clinical Psychology track). Though this sub-track is not formally designated nor accredited as a specialty track (i.e., as are the Clinical, Behavioral Medicine, and Community tracks), it is designed to prepare students for careers in Child Clinical Psychology. As with pursuit of multiple tracks within the HSP Program, it is also possible to combine a Child Clinical sub-track with either the Behavioral Medicine (Child Clinical/Behavioral Medicine) or Community (Child Clinical/Community) tracks.

**Is funding or financial aid available?**

Funding is available in the form of graduate teaching and research assistantships. Students are accepted with a promise of 5 years of funding. Support from special needs funding programs and other grants through the department and the Graduate School is also available. Loan information is available through UMBC's Office of Financial Aid.

**What is the length of the program?**

For students entering with a baccalaureate degree, the program is designed to take the equivalent of 5-6 years of full-time study to complete. This includes a one-year internship for Clinical psychology students, which is usually taken in the student's fifth or sixth year.

**Can students pursue the Ph.D. on a part-time basis?**

The program is designed to be completed on a full-time basis by all students. While there have been rare instances in which students need to pursue the requirements on a part-time basis, these instances have been associated with extenuating circumstances and need to be approved by the full HSP faculty.

**Do you offer a Master's Degree in Psychology?**

No. The Human Services Psychology Program only admits students into a Ph.D. program; a Master's degree is typically earned en route to completion of the Ph.D. The HSP Clinical, Community, and Behavioral Medicine tracks are not appropriate for students who want a terminal Master's degree.

The only terminal Master's degree offered within the HSP Program is the M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis that has been developed and maintained by the UMBC Department of Psychology and the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Department of Behavioral Psychology. Please see: <https://psychology.umbc.edu/aba/> for more information.

**Can I apply to the program for entry in the Spring semester?**

No, we only accept applications for entrance in the Fall semester.

**How do I apply?**

The preferred method of application is through use of the online application forms available at the UMBC Graduate School website (<https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/apply/>). The online application will include both the Application for Graduate Admission and a link to upload the Supplemental Application for the Human Services Psychology Program. Please note that the deadline for application is **December 1**. (IMPORTANT: In the event that any other deadline date may be mentioned, the application date is **December 1**). A checklist of application materials is provided below (submitted materials); the UMBC Graduate School website also includes a checklist of application materials. Hard copies of all application materials other than the HSP Supplemental Application can be obtained from the same link provided above.

### **What is the HSP Supplemental Application?**

All applicants are required to complete and upload the HSP Supplemental Application as part of the overall application process. The supplemental application can be found at:

<https://psychology.umbc.edu/hsp/application-procedures/>

The Supplemental Application will ask you to:

- 1) specify the track(s) within HSP to which you are applying;
- 2) indicate the faculty mentor(s) with whom you want to conduct research and how your interests align with theirs;
- 3) list any coursework you feel highlights your preparation for graduate education in HSP;
- 4) briefly describe your current career goals; and
- 5) provide any additional information that may assist the Admissions Committee.

Applicants will be able to upload the HSP Supplemental Application as part of the online application process.

Note that applications will not be considered complete until the HSP Supplemental Application has been uploaded.

### **When is the application deadline for the HSP Ph.D. Program?**

The Application for Graduate Admission may mention several application deadlines as required by the Graduate School. The application deadline for the Human Services Psychology Program is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. All materials, including the General GRE test and letters of recommendation, must be received by this date. Please note that not all GRE test dates will allow submission of the GRE scores in time to meet the application deadline.

### **Is an interview required as part of the admission process?**

The Human Services Psychology Program does conduct in-person interviews as part of the applicant evaluation process. Interviews are by invitation only based on the application review and, for the current admission cycle, are scheduled for 2/20-2/21/20. Invited applicants will typically be contacted by mid-late January. If you cannot interview in person, it may be possible to arrange a phone interview.

### **Are there minimum GPA or GRE requirements?**

The minimum GPA for admission is a B average, or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. While there is no minimum score for the GRE tests, scores on **any** test that fall below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile are typically cause for concern regarding the overall application. Beyond these requirements, admissions are competitive based upon scores on the Verbal and Quantitative tests of the Graduate Record Examination, grade point average, letters of recommendation, and any other information relevant to assessing a student's potential for successfully completing the program. Please see the following page for information on students pursuing the Clinical Psychology track over the past ten years.

<https://psychology.umbc.edu/hsp/clinical/data/>

**Do I need to take the GRE Psychology subject test?**

No, the Psychology Subject test is not a required part of the application process. However, this test may be an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate preparation for graduate study in the field of Psychology in the event they do not have a degree in Psychology and/or coursework performance in Psychology is mixed.

**What if I do not have a degree in Psychology?**

Though most applicants have earned a degree (either Bachelor's or Master's) in Psychology, this is not a requirement of admission to the program. What is required is foundational knowledge in the general area of Psychology, which is presumed of those applicants with a degree in Psychology. Applicants without a degree in Psychology can demonstrate their preparation for graduate study in Psychology in a variety of ways including: coursework in Psychology, successful performance on the GRE-Subject (Psychology) test, coursework in disciplines closely related to Psychology, research experience in the field of Psychology or closely related discipline, and/or practical experience in the field of Psychology or closely related discipline. You will be asked to explain your preparation on the supplemental application to the HSP program. Ideal preparation for the Ph.D. program consists of a solid background of coursework in the realm of psychology, including coursework in statistics and research methods. A broad knowledge of mathematical, biological, and social sciences is also of benefit.

Examples of appropriate Psychology coursework is related to the specific track(s) an applicant is interested in pursuing.

Courses for applicants interested in Behavioral Medicine might include Health Psychology or Physiological Psychology or other related courses.

Courses for applicants interested in Clinical Psychology might include Abnormal Psychology or Clinical Psychology or other related courses.

Courses for applicants interested in Community Psychology might include Community Psychology or Cultural Psychology or other related courses.

If you have questions about your academic preparation and whether specific coursework is appropriate, please contact a potential research mentor or the HSP director ([hsp@umbc.edu](mailto:hsp@umbc.edu)).

**What materials must I submit for my application to be complete?**

1. Application for Graduate Admission
2. Supplemental Application for the Human Services Psychology Program
3. Application Fee (\$50 for online application; \$70 for paper application)  
see: <https://gradschool.umbc.edu/admissions/requirements/appfee/> for information regarding eligibility for having the application fee waived
4. Letters of Recommendation (3)
5. GRE Scores
6. Official Transcripts

This information is also available from the Graduate School application checklist.

**About UMBC.**

UMBC is part of the University System of Maryland. It was established in 1963 and is located on a 477- acre site 7 miles from downtown Baltimore. The Baltimore Beltway and Interstate 95 provide convenient access to the many cultural, scientific, and professional opportunities in the Baltimore- Washington area. The 37+ building campus offers superior academic resources and facilities.

Graduate education at UMBC is offered in conjunction with the University of Maryland Graduate School, Baltimore which offers over 86 graduate degrees through the combined resources and expertise of the UMBC campus and the University's professional school campus in downtown Baltimore. The proximity of UMBC to the Baltimore city campus provides convenient exchange of resources and talent, and development of cooperative graduate programs with the professional schools of medicine, dentistry, law, pharmacy, nursing, and social work.

Emphasis on scholarly research and educational quality at UMBC is demonstrated by its position among the top five percent of arts and sciences colleges in the nation receiving NIH biomedical research funds.