

FINAL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PhD ADMISSION DECISIONS

Criteria	Rank Order	Mean Score
Research experience, resulting in a publication credit in a scholarly journal	1	4.45
Degree to which the applicant's skills and interests match those of the program	2	4.41
Research experience, resulting in a paper presentation at a professional meeting	3	4.24
Degree of interest expressed by faculty in working with applicant as graduate student	4	4.16
Clarity and focus of applicant's statement of purpose	5	4.12
Research assistant experience	6	3.85
Writing skills as revealed in statement of purpose	7	3.75
Status and reputation of applicant's referees	8	3.75
A strong, supporting mentor actively involved in advocating an applicant's candidacy	9	3.75
Underrepresented ethnic minority group membership	10	3.66
Degree of knowledge and expression of interest in your program	11	3.61
Number of statistics/research methods courses taken as an undergraduate	12	3.48
Number of "harder science" courses taken as an undergraduate	13	3.41
Prestige and status of psychology faculty in applicant's undergraduate department	14	3.35
Prestige of applicant's undergraduate institution	15	3.30
Potential for success as judged by interview or other contact	16	3.19
Honors or merit scholarships awarded by undergraduate school	17	3.03
Area of undergraduate major	18	2.98
Social/personality style as revealed through interview	19	2.80
Relevant field/volunteer experience in placement	20	2.75
Relevant paid work experience in area related to your program	21	2.62
Neatness and "professional look" of the application materials	22	2.48
Teaching assistant experience	23	2.41
Active participation in department activities	24	2.23
Student affiliate status in a relevant professional organization	25	1.81
Degree to which applicant would help to balance the sex ratio within the program	26	1.81
Psi Chi membership	27	1.75
Multilingual fluency	28	1.64
Contribution to geographical diversity of program's students	29	1.61
"Legacy" status (i.e., close relation of applicant to graduate of the program)	30	1.39

Source: Keith-Spiegel, 1991.