Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can you send me more information and a paper application?

We do not have additional information to mail; we can only accept the on-line application.

Q. Are GRE’s required?

GRE Quantitative, Verbal, and Writing scores no older than 5 years are required. Advanced scores are optional. Please carefully review this website and schedule your test accordingly at http://www.ets.org/gre.

Q. What is the total number of applicants, the number accepted and the average GRE score of accepted students?

There were 92 applicants for the PhD program for fall 2014. Nine were accepted. The average verbal GRE score was 164; the average Quantitative GRE score was 164 and the average analytical score was 4.5. For more specific information, please see the APA Guide to Graduate Study in Psychology at http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4270098.aspx. Please also note that beginning in August 2011, GRE scoring was changed. Please recall that all components of applications are considered when we review applications.

Q. What should be in the personal statement?

The personal statement is a research interest statement. It should describe the research interests and academic goals of the applicant and if possible, mention one or more faculty members the applicant wants to study under if admitted. If you are applying to the one-year master’s program, please identify two faculty members you wish to work with.

Q. Is a writing sample required?

A writing sample is required; it can be a research paper done in undergraduate school; please do not send theses (masters or honors). The committee only considers short writing samples.

Q. Can I submit more than the required 2 letters of recommendation?

You can submit up to 5 letters of recommendation.

Q. What if I’ve been out of college for a long time and am unable to get letters of recommendation from previous professors?

You can submit letters from employment supervisors or professional people who can attest to your academic ability. However, it is preferable to have at least one recommendation from a professor.
Q. Is an interview required?

An interview is not a required part of the admissions process. You are welcome to visit the university at your convenience. If you wish to schedule appointments to speak with faculty members, please contact them directly via e-mail or phone [http://www.human.cornell.edu/HD/People/people.cfm](http://www.human.cornell.edu/HD/People/people.cfm). Students who are short listed for admission to the PhD program are invited to come to Cornell in early March. You will be notified if this applies to you.

Q. Can I be exempt from the Test of English as a Foreign Language exam?

All international students must take the TOEFL exam and submit scores. This is a firm Cornell Graduate School requirement. If your scores are near or at the minimum, there is a lower probability you will be admitted. Please use 2098 as the institutional code and 2006 as the department to have your scores sent to us from ETS. Please review the information regarding the TOEFL on the following website. [http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/applying/english-language-proficiency-requirement](http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/applying/english-language-proficiency-requirement)

Q. How are graduate students supported in Human Development?

All of our graduate students admitted for the PhD program are supported for 5 years if they apply for funding from 2 outside sources, regardless of whether those applications were successful. The support can be as a teaching assistant, a research assistant, or as a fellowship recipient. We are unable to offer financial support to students in the one-year master’s program.

Q. When will I hear if I’ve been admitted?

Invitations for our annual hosting weekend are typically made by early February. The first round of acceptances will be made after the hosting weekend. Thereafter, decisions continue on a rolling basis until April 15th.