

ADMISSIONS DIALOGUE AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Please respond thoughtfully to the following. Each essay must be typed and double-spaced, with your name typed on the top of each page. The admissions committee is interested in your capacity for self-reflection and your ability to think critically, as well as your writing ability. Some people may be asked to take steps to improve their writing skills when they enter the program so that they are writing at the graduate level.

(Essay 1) Autobiographical Statement (5 pages): Please write an autobiographical statement, five pages in length. This statement will help the admissions committee know you as an individual, as well as evaluate your writing ability and your capacity to reflect insightfully on your personal experience.

(Essay 2) Admissions Dialogue: Complete the appropriate dialogue questions below, appropriate to your chosen Track and area(s) (if applicable) in no more than four (4) additional pages. If you are applying for:

- Master of Arts in Psychological Studies with a Research Emphasis— Please answer Sections **A** and **B**
Please note: Research Emphasis cannot specialize in one of the existing specializations within the Department of Graduate Psychology programs without extending past 48 units. Applicants to the Psychological Studies program wishing to specialize in an existing specialization and who wish to graduate in 48 units must choose the Contemporary Psychology emphasis.
- Master of Arts in Psychological Studies with a Contemporary Psychology Emphasis – Please answer Sections **A** and **C**

SECTION A:

- Undergraduate Education: Is there additional information you would like us to know in order to evaluate your undergraduate record?
- Graduate Study: Describe any formal graduate work you have completed (what, when, where?), and how it is relevant to your application to this program.
- Why should we accept you into the Psychological Studies program? What in your background gives evidence of your ability to work independently on a major project such as a thesis project?
- How would your completion of this degree contribute to your personal development, to the profession, and to society?
- What experience do you have that would prepare you to work professionally with people who differ from yourself?

SECTION B:

- How would your completion of the Psychological Studies program contribute to your personal development, to the profession, and to society?
- What personal and/or professional experience(s) do you have that would prepare you to critically consume research and to create original research in the field of psychology? How have these experiences led to your desire to create knowledge within the field of psychology? What resources are you aware of that you could draw on in planning and executing this research program?

SECTION C:

- Why do you wish to pursue the Contemporary Psychology emphasis of the Psychological Studies program?

IF YOU ARE WANTING SPECIALIZATION COURSEWORK: Please describe in some detail why you are choosing a desired specialization (Applied Community Specialization, Child Studies Specialization, LGBT Specialization).

- What experiences contribute to your desires to enter the designated Specialization? For example, have you worked or volunteered within a specific setting (churches, non-profit organization, school, etc), or worked with a specific population(s) that indicates your pursuit toward the designated Specialization? What was your role within the setting, and/or when serving the population(s)?
- How would the completion of this Specialization contribute to your personal development, to the profession, and to society?