



University of Connecticut

**Department of
Psychological Sciences
PhD Programs**

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I. PROGRAMS OFFERED

The [Department of Psychological Sciences](#) graduate program admits students to PhD programs only; terminal master's degree programs are not offered. All programs except Ecological Psychology require completion of a master's degree as part of the PhD program. PhD programs are offered in the following areas:

- **Behavioral Neuroscience (Behavioral Neuroscience Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Clinical Psychology (Clinical Psychology Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Developmental Psychology (Developmental Psychology Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Ecological Psychology (Perception, Action, Cognition Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Industrial and Organizational Psychology (Industrial/Organizational Psychology Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Language and Cognition (Perception, Action, Cognition Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Neurosciences (Behavioral Neuroscience Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)
- **Social Psychology (Social Psychology Division)**
 - Program Overview: [Courses and Degree Milestones](#)

For additional information on individual programs please click on the links above.

II. APPLICATION DEADLINES

To find the most up-to-date deadlines please visit the webpage:
<https://grad.psych.uconn.edu/prospective/phd/application-deadlines/>

***Early Deadlines:**

If an early deadline is listed, applications received by that date will be given preferential status for financial support (Departmental and University fellowships, Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships); applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed for admission until the final deadline.

If a program does not have an early deadline listed, all applications received by the final deadline will be considered for financial support and admission; applications will generally not be accepted after the final deadline.

Late Applications:

Please note that applications will not be accepted after the stated deadline unless approved by the Division Head of the applicable program. Once the application deadline has passed, the process for submitting an application in the online system changes. Individuals who have been approved to submit a late application must contact the admissions coordinator at psychgrad@uconn.edu for assistance in submitting the application.

Supplemental materials will be accepted after the deadline (for online applications submitted by the deadline), however please note that applications that are complete at the deadline will likely receive priority during the admissions review process.

III. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- (1) Complete the online application and upload all relevant documents. **(Please see section IV below for a list of required application materials. Please note that all documents must be uploaded *prior to submitting* the application.)**
- (2) Pay the application fee through the online system.
- (3) Submit the online application.
- (4) **(International applicants only) Request an official transcript be sent from your university's registrar to the UConn Graduate School admissions office (see Section IV below for mailing address) at the following address:**

**University of Connecticut
Graduate School, Unit 1152
438 Whitney Road Extension
Storrs, CT 06269-1152**

Note: If you have already requested that the Registrar send an official transcript to you, it is fine for you to forward the official transcript to the Graduate School yourself.

- (5) If you have not already done so, request official exam score reports be sent to UConn:
 - **GRE General score (required)** – use Institution **Code 3915** (UCONN- Storrs Campus); no Department Code is required
 - GRE Subject score (recommended) - use Institution **Code 3915** (UCONN- Storrs Campus); no Department Code is required
 - TOEFL, IELTS or PTE (required for non-native speakers of English)
- (6) If your recommenders preferred not to use the online system hard copy recommendation letters should be mailed directly to the Psychological Sciences Department:

Graduate Admissions
Department of Psychological Sciences
University of Connecticut
406 Babbidge Road, Unit 1020
Storrs, CT 06269-1020
- (7) **Check the status of your application** to ensure that all required materials have been received and your application is complete.

For questions related to receipt of the application fee, transcripts, test scores, and/or residence affidavit, please contact the Graduate School admissions office (gradadmissions@uconn.edu or 860-486-3617)

For questions related to receipt of recommendations or other supporting documents please contact the Department of Psychological Sciences at psychgrad@uconn.edu (preferred) or 860-486-4725.

IV. REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

A. Materials Required by the Graduate School:

- (1) **Application:** submitted via the Graduate School's [online application system](#).
- (2) **Application Fee:** \$75
[If you believe you may qualify for a waiver of the application fee please see the Graduate School [waiver policy](#) and/or contact the Graduate School admissions office (gradadmissions@uconn.edu or 860-486-3617).]

- (3) **One *unofficial* transcript**, uploaded into the online application system, from each college or university attended.

Please select the relevant link below for specific information on transcript requirements:

[US Citizen and Permanent Resident Applicants](#)

[International Applicants](#)

Questions about transcripts or degree equivalencies should be directed to the Graduate School (gradadmissions@uconn.edu or 860-486-3617).

- (4) **Official Report of a Test of English Proficiency** (required only for applicants who are not native speakers of English)

- [TOEFL](#) (Test of English as a Foreign Language): If you use the results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), you must have a minimum overall score of 79 (Internet-based test – iBT), 550 (Old Paper-based test – PBT) or 22/30 on each of the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections (“New” Paper-based test- PBT) or higher on the [TOEFL](#) test. **Institution Code 3915 (UConn-Storrs Campus)** should be used for reporting your test results.

OR

- [IELTS](#) (International English Language Testing System): If you submit results from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), you must have an average overall band score of at least 6.5 or higher on the [IELTS](#) test. Only the scores from the Academic Module, not the General Training Module, are applicable.

OR

- [PTE](#) (Pearson Test of English) Academic: If you submit results from the PTE Academic test, you must have an overall score of at least 53 or higher on the [PTE](#) test. Only the scores from the Academic Module, not the General Training Module, are applicable.

In all cases **submitted test results are only valid for two years (from original test date to submission of UConn application).**

If you believe you might qualify for a waiver of the Test of English Proficiency requirement please see the Graduate School's [waiver policy](#) and click on the link for additional details on the [TOEFL/IELTS Waiver Interview](#). Waiver requests are reviewed and approved by the Graduate School (860-486-3617; gradadmissions@uconn.edu).

If you are not a native speaker of English, and you plan to obtain a teaching assistantship, you must satisfy [UConn's English Proficiency Policy](#) before being allowed to instruct a class. For more information, please contact [International Teaching Assistant Services](#).

(5) Residence Affidavit (Required for US Citizens and Permanent Residents)

This document will help determine whether you qualify for in-state tuition rates. **Please note that all US citizens and permanent residents must submit this document whether a resident of CT or not.** If you are not a Connecticut resident please check the appropriate box. The form is completed through the online application system.

(6) One official transcript (with the embossed and/or colored seal) from each college or university attended.

NOTE: US Citizens and Permanent Residents are not required to submit official transcripts until an admission offer is made. It is requested that International Applicants send official transcripts and/or marksheets and/or degree certificates as soon as they submit the online application, due to the length of time it can take to receive international documents.

Please select the relevant link below for specific information on transcript requirements:

[US Citizen and Permanent Resident Applicants](#)

[International Applicants](#)

If you have any questions about the documents listed above **please contact the Graduate School directly** (gradadmissions@uconn.edu or 860-486-3617).

B. Materials Required by the Psychological Sciences Department:

- **Official Score Report of the [General GRE](#) (Graduate Record Exam)** Official test scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to the University of Connecticut. **Please note it may take 1-4 weeks for the university to receive test scores once they have been requested and an additional 2-3 weeks to be loaded into the university's online application system for review.** It is recommended that you keep this time frame in mind when scheduling your exam to ensure your scores will be available to the faculty by the intended program's application deadline. Your application will not be considered complete until the official General GRE scores have been received.
- Unofficial (self-reported) test scores may be entered directly into the online application in the "Test Scores" section. Unofficial test scores will allow faculty to begin reviewing the application if there is a delay in official reports being received.
- The Graduate School receives official test scores directly from ETS so please make sure to use the correct code when requesting electronic score reports. Once official test scores are received your status page in the online application will be automatically updated to show we have officially received your scores. **When ordering official score reports from ETS, use Institution Code 3915 (UConn- Storrs Campus). No department code is required.**

- More information on the GRE is available through the [Educational Testing Service website](http://www.ets.org/gre). (<http://www.ets.org/gre> or 1-866-473-4373).

(7) **Official Score Report of the [GRE Subject Test in Psychology](#) (recommended, not required)**

- This exam may also be referred to as the GRE Advanced Test or the GRE Major Field Test.
- This exam is **recommended, not required. You may consider taking this exam especially if psychology was not your major field of study as an undergraduate.**
- Subject tests are paper-based tests and are only offered 3 times per year. The test dates and score mailing dates can be found on the [ETS website](#). (Please note that the exam taken in April would likely be received too late to be considered.)
- Please note: If your Subject GRE scores are not received by the application deadline, review of your application will not be held up since the Subject GRE is *not required*. Once the Subject GRE scores are received, even if it is after the application deadline, they will be uploaded to your application file; however, if your application has already been reviewed by the admissions committee before the Subject scores are received it is not guaranteed the file will be re-reviewed once the scores arrive.
- GRE Subject scores are received electronically from ETS. Use Institution Code 3915 when requesting reports from ETS.
- More information on the GRE Subject Test is available on the [Educational Testing Service webpage](#) or at 1-866-473-4373.

(8) **Personal Statement of Purpose**

- Recommended length is 2-4 pages, double-spaced.
- This document should be uploaded in the online application system.
- There are no official guidelines for the statement. This is your chance to tell the admissions committee about yourself, your goals, how you believe you would fit within your requested program, and anything else you want them to know about you.

(9) **Three letters of recommendation**

- It is recommended that recommendations be from your instructors in psychology.
- Only three recommendations are required, however you are welcome to submit more.
- **It is preferred that recommendations be submitted using the online application recommendation system**, however if a recommender prefers to submit the recommendation on paper, it should be mailed directly to the Department of Psychological Sciences using the address below. Please note that we do not provide specific forms or cover sheets for paper letters of recommendation. Hard copy letters should be written on letterhead with an original signature (or on regular paper with the recommender's contact information included somewhere on the letter). Mail paper recommendations to:

Graduate Admissions
 Department of Psychological Sciences
 University of Connecticut
 406 Babbidge Road, Unit 1020
 Storrs, CT 06269-1020

(10) Identification of a “Preferred Faculty Advisor” in the online application

Failure to identify a preferred advisor may delay the review of your application. Preferred advisors should be a member of the “core faculty” in the program to which you are applying. Please see [individual program webpages](#) for a list of “core” faculty in that program. The online application allows for selection of up to two preferred advisors.

Please note that indicating your preferred advisor(s) in your personal statement is not sufficient; you must also list them in the relevant section in the application system.

(11) Resume**(12) Writing Sample**

(i.e., research papers, journal articles, etc.) Documents must be submitted in the online application system; mailed documents will not be added to your application. If the document is too big to be uploaded, it is recommended that you upload an abbreviated version of the document and indicate that admissions committees may contact you for a full version.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission to all graduate programs at the University of Connecticut is governed by the university’s Graduate School. The Graduate School sets minimum admission requirements, and provides final approval of all admissions. The Department of Psychological Sciences sets additional admission requirements, reviews applications, and decides whether to recommend applicants to the Graduate School for admission.

The university uses an online application system which is managed by the Graduate School admissions office. All application materials should be submitted electronically through the online application system, except **the official transcripts which should be sent directly to the Graduate School admissions office as indicated in section IV above**. If any documents cannot be submitted electronically (i.e. a recommender prefers not to use the online system), the documents should be mailed directly to the Department of Psychological Sciences as indicated in section IV above. Tests scores should be requested from ETS; once requested they will be sent electronically by ETS to the university’s Graduate School admissions office. **Please note that it may take 1-4 weeks for the university to receive test scores once they have been requested and an additional 2-3 weeks to be loaded into the online application system for review by faculty.** Applications become available to faculty and admissions committees once they have been submitted by the applicant; the decision whether to review applications before they are complete is at the discretion of the program faculty/admissions committee. If an application is not complete at the time the faculty/committee reviews it, the application may or may not receive a second review once it is complete. Once a decision has been made by the program faculty/admissions committee, it will be entered into the online system and reviewed by the Graduate School. Once the Graduate School approves the decision the applicant will receive an email through the online application system notifying them to log into their online account to view the decision and, if admitted, to reply to the offer.

Admission to the Department of Psychological Sciences PhD programs is competitive; therefore applications are often reviewed in comparison with the entire applicant pool. If you submit an

early application it does not mean that you will receive an early decision since the admission committees will likely want to review all applications before making decisions. Each program's admission committee conducts application reviews differently; some will make a round of early decisions; some will make most decisions towards the end of the application cycle. **Final decisions on all applications that were received and complete by the final application deadline are expected to be made by April 1st.** Applications completed after the posted application deadline will be processed, however the later the application becomes complete, the less likely that the application will be approved for admission due to the limited number of openings in each program.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **All programs are full-time on the Storrs campus.** Students are expected to work full-time toward their degree except for assignments related to their course work such as Graduate Assistantships or Internships. Courses are not offered online or at regional campuses.
- **No program formally offers a terminal master's degree.** All of our psychology graduate programs are full-time Ph.D. programs, most of which *require completion of a master's degree as part of the Ph.D. program.* Only on rare occasions will faculty accommodate students with exceptional circumstances and allow them to pursue a terminal master's degree.
- Applicants are not required to have an undergraduate degree in Psychology.
- **Decisions are usually made by April 1.** Once a decision has been made by the Department of Psychological Sciences and approved by the Graduate School admissions office, the applicant will receive an email asking them to log in to the online application system to view the decision on their application.
- We do not refuse applications that are not complete by the deadline. If GRE scores, transcripts, or letters of recommendation are received after the deadline, they will be included in the application when they are received. Although **late documents will be accepted, please be aware that space is limited in the graduate programs, therefore any significant delay in submitting application materials could affect the chances of being admitted.** Individual admissions committees will decide when to review incomplete applications. Committees may begin reviewing applications any time after the application deadline. If the application is reviewed prior to receipt of missing items, the application may not receive a second review once missing items are received.
- The department does not have a formal "cut-off" score for the GRE. The faculty carefully review all aspects of each admission file (i.e., GPA, GRE, recommendation letters, personal statement, etc.).
- **Interviews:**

- The Clinical Division will formally interview their top candidates, usually in late-January or early-February. Clinical faculty will contact interview candidates via email or phone, typically in late December or early January.
 - Other programs may schedule visits for applicants they are interested in admitting, or for students who have been admitted, however they do not have a formal interview process.
 - Applicants are welcome to visit the department at any time and may contact individual faculty or the program Division Heads to see if they would be able to meet with them, however a personal interview with a faculty member cannot be guaranteed until the applicant has been admitted.
- Prospective applicants who have not been admitted to a degree program may take courses as a non-degree student, however this will not guarantee admission at a later date. For more information on registering as a non-degree student, please contact the Office of the Registrar (<http://nondegree.uconn.edu/>; 860-486-3331; registrar@uconn.edu).
 - It is up to the applicant to verify that all materials have been received and that the application is complete. Application status and the status of individual documents can be viewed through the online application system. **Please be aware that there may be some delay between receipt of materials and application status updates.**

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

- For questions related to the online application system, test scores, transcripts, fee waivers, TOEFL/IELTS waivers, or Graduate School admission requirements, you may contact **the Graduate School** by phone: 860-486-3617 or email: gradadmissions@uconn.edu.
- For questions related to the Department of Psychological Sciences admission or program requirements, you may contact the **Department of Psychological Sciences** by email: psychgrad@uconn.edu (preferred) or by phone: 860-486-4725.

VIII. FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships

There is no separate application process for Graduate Assistantships or Fellowships. All applicants who indicate in the online application system that they are applying for a Graduate Assistantship or Fellowship will be considered for these sources of financial aid. All applicants (international and domestic) are eligible for Graduate Assistantship and Fellowship funding (unless specifically noted otherwise).

Graduate Assistantships

Students enrolled in graduate degree programs at UConn are eligible to hold a Graduate Assistantship (GA), which is the primary means of support for graduate students at the University. GA appointments ordinarily are made for the nine-month academic year, August 23 through May 22. As a recipient of a GA you would serve as a Teaching Assistant, a reader

for a class, or assist in a laboratory or research environment (Research Assistant). Graduate Assistants are full-time students and must remain registered for at least 6 credits while holding the appointment.

Graduate Assistantships can be for as much as 20 hours/week and as few as 10 hours/week, with pay adjusted accordingly. Each Assistantship includes a full waiver of tuition (but not fees) and the opportunity to purchase highly subsidized medical and dental insurance. Since a Graduate Assistantship involves "work for hire," the stipend is subject to U.S. taxes. There are three rates of pay for Graduate Assistant positions, varying by experience and the student's degree program. The levels of pay are published each year on the Payroll Department's [Graduate Assistant Resources webpage](#). Graduate Assistant positions are governed by a [collective bargaining agreement](#) between the University of Connecticut and the Graduate Employee Union.

Per University policy, all Teaching Assistants must present certification of English proficiency in order to qualify for an unrestricted appointment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with classroom instructional contact.

Certification of English proficiency may be obtained by meeting one of the following requirements:

1. Speak English as a native language.
2. Submit a valid TOEFL IBT score with a speaking subscore of 27 or higher, an IELTS speaking band score of 8.0 or higher, or a Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) score of 74 or higher.
3. Pass the Microteaching Test. You must take the Microteaching test if
 - o your TOEFL IBT speaking subscore is between 22* and 26
 - o your IELTS score is 7.0 or 7.5 on the speaking band
 - o your PTE score is between 62 and 73

Please see the [International Teaching Assistant Services website](#) for additional information.

Please note that the Department of Psychological Sciences requires students to obtain certification of English proficiency by April 30th of the first year of study in order to remain eligible for departmental support, including Graduate Assistantships.

For more information on Graduate Assistantships please see the [Graduate School webpage](#) and the [Graduate School Catalog](#).

Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowships

Predoctoral Fellowships are awarded to doctoral students on the recommendation of the graduate faculty in their program. Award amounts vary considerably. Predoctoral Fellowships carry no service (teaching or research) commitment. Students must be a regular (not provisional) full-time doctoral student to be eligible for these Fellowships. Funds are provided to the academic department by the Graduate School. In the Department of Psychological Sciences, the Division Head for each program then determines the awards for students in their program.

The Graduate School's Internal Fellowship Awards

The Jorgensen Fellowship (JF) (formerly the Outstanding Scholar Program (OSP)) and the **Harriott Fellowship (HF)** (formerly the Giolas-Harriott Fellowship (GHF)) are

available to outstanding young scholars who have been admitted to doctoral programs at the University of Connecticut. **The Crandall Fellowship** (formerly the Crandall-Cordero Fellowship (CCF)) is available to outstanding young scholars who have been admitted to master's programs at the University. These fellowships are intended to recruit and support the most promising students entering graduate programs at the University of Connecticut. Recipients of these fellowships will represent the very best applicants to graduate programs at the University. In addition, to be eligible for either the HF or CF fellowship, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to enhancing diversity in higher education and/or a commitment to enhancing diversity in their field of study. Students are nominated for these awards by the graduate program to which they are applying.

These awards consist of a service-free fellowship providing a \$20,000 annual stipend (\$17,000 during the academic year, \$3000 during the summer). Departments may couple the fellowship with a partial or full assistantship. A student receiving a ½ assistantship in addition to one of these awards will receive a total stipend of approximately \$31,500 and a tuition waiver. A student receiving a full assistantship in addition to one of these awards will receive a total stipend of approximately \$43,000 and a tuition waiver. (Fellowships that are not accompanied by an assistantship do not provide a tuition waiver.) Teaching or research duties associated with the Graduate Assistantship position will be determined by the graduate program in which the student is enrolled.

Recipients of the JF and the HF are eligible for up to five years of fellowship support. Recipients of the CF are eligible for two years of fellowship support, except for recipients who applied to and are accepted in an MFA program. Students may elect to defer one or more years of support for which they are eligible, but the award must be used within the usual time limits for a degree (8 years for PhD, 6 years for master's).

More details can be found on the Graduate School's Internal Fellowships [webpage](#).

Need-Based Financial Aid

U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible to apply for need-based financial aid. At UConn, need-based financial aid is administered through the [Office of Student Financial Aid Services](#). Need-based financial aid awards can be made only if an applicant's financial need has been established. At most universities, the amount of financial need can be established only by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For additional information on completing the FAFSA and applying for need-based aid please see the following website: <http://financialaid.uconn.edu/graduate/>. The FAFSA becomes available on January 1st and, for entering graduate students, is due to the Federal Processor on or before May 1st to be considered on-time.

It is to every eligible student's advantage to complete the FAFSA while applying to graduate school. After entering a particular graduate school, it is possible that need-based aid may be available in addition to any other non-need-based aid received. Only those with a current FAFSA need analysis will be eligible for such additional aid.

For additional information or questions please contact UConn's Office of Student Financial Aid Services (<http://financialaid.uconn.edu/graduate/> or 860-486-2819)

Additional Funding Sources

Semi-Annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program

Pending budgetary approval, the Graduate School awards a limited number of Spring and Fall [Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Awards](#) for advanced students in doctoral programs requiring a dissertation. The purpose of the fellowship is to enable students to place a high priority on writing the doctoral dissertation as expeditiously as possible. To be eligible, the student must have passed the doctoral General Examination and have obtained full approval of the Dissertation Proposal (including the use of any human or animal subjects or stem cells) and have personal income that does not exceed the maximum limit specified on the application form. The application deadlines are in late-November and late-April, respectively.

Doctoral Student Travel Funding

Departmental

The Department of Psychological Sciences offers funding of up to \$500 per year (subject to availability of funds) to eligible PhD students in their first five years of graduate study, for travel to conferences where the student is a 1st author or presenter of UConn research material.

Graduate School

Students enrolled in a doctoral program who have completed at least 30 credits toward their degree program become eligible to apply for a travel award of up to \$750 for travel to a professional meeting or conference where the doctoral student is presenting his/her research. There are two (2) competitions during an academic year; one for travel during the Fall semester and one for travel during the Spring semester. For additional information please see <http://grad.uconn.edu/financial-resources/internal-funding-opportunities/doctor-student-travel-award/>.

External Funding Sources

UConn's [Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships](#) is available to assist students in finding appropriate external sources of funding and in providing advice and direction through the application process. The Graduate School also provides a list of external funding opportunities on their website [here](#).