

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION

Personal Statement Prompts

Please answer the questions for the graduate program in which you're applying to, in an essay format. This essay portion of the departmental application should be **typed, 12 point font, and double spaced** (See page length limits below). Also, please include your last, first name and last four digits of your SS # on the top right hand corner.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (4-page limit)

Please describe the personal and professional trajectory that led you to pursue a career in clinical psychology. Your essay should address:

- The lived experiences and cultural contexts that have shaped your identity and worldview.
- How your clinical practice experiences have shaped your professional goals.
- Why our specific program is the right environment for your professional growth.

We are not interested in distinct sections, but rather, we are interested in an essay that integrates who you are as a person with who you hope to become as a practitioner.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (6-page limit)

In one essay please describe the following: What are your professional goals? In addition, we would like you to include an autobiography so that we can more clearly get to know you as a person. We hope that this attempt will produce a meaningful confrontation with yourself and that the process of doing so will be worth the effort. In responding, it is important that you take a careful psychologically-minded perspective of your attitudes, life and goals. Your statement will be a central factor in the evaluation of your total application. In addition to the essay which addresses the above points, please include in your application a current Curriculum Vitae (CV; i.e., academic resume).

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (6-page limit)

In one essay please describe the following: Aside from your interest in human development, what are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Developmental Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them? Describe the area(s) of developmental psychology (e.g., cognitive, emotional, health) which you are most interested in and, briefly, how these interests emerged. What research, publication, work, volunteer, or other experiences have you had which are related to your current interests in psychology? What are your future educational and/or career goals? Please be specific. Describe what you might be doing after getting your Master's degree. Our faculty is comprised of active researchers. Indicate which of the Developmental Psychology (or departmental) faculty you hope to work with and explain why.

INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (7-page limit)

In one essay please answer the following seven (7) questions in no more than one page for each question (7 page max): 1) Aside from making the workplace better, why specifically are you interested in the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology? 2) What areas of Industrial/Organizational Psychology are of interest to you and why? Please be specific. 3) Describe any educational, work, volunteer, or other experiences you have that demonstrate your abilities in the following areas: (a) Ability to analyze complex problems and think about innovative and creative solutions; and (b) Ability to work independently, set priorities and meet deadlines, and sustain performance and motivation on long term projects. 4) What, if any, work experience has prepared you for a career in I/O? Please be specific as to how and why it has prepared you. 5) What are your areas of research interest and how do they align the research interests of our faculty? What are your future educational and/or career goals? Please be specific. 6) Describe what you might be doing after getting your Master's degree. 7) What business trends do you think have the most potential for impacting the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology and why?

MIND, BRAIN, & BEHAVIOR (6-page limit)

In one essay please describe the following: What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate Psychology program at SFSU facilitate achieving them? Describe the area(s) of psychology (Psychophysiological, Cognitive, Neuroscience, etc.) which you are most interested in and, briefly, how these interests developed? What research, publication, work, volunteer, or other experiences have you had which are related to your current interests in psychology? What would you say is the "mainspring" of your motivation as it applies to your academic and career goals? Our faculty is comprised of active researchers. Indicate which of the Mind, Brain, & Behavior (or departmental) faculty you hope to work with and explain why.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (5-page limit)

In one essay please describe the following: What are your professional goals and how would completion of the graduate program in Social Psychology at SFSU help you achieve those goals? What is the motivation that underlies your academic and career goals? Please summarize your principal areas of interest in Social Psychology. Please describe experiences (e.g., research, employment, volunteer activities) that relate to or have helped develop your current interests in Social Psychology. Please describe any additional research experience that you have in any area of Psychology. Our faculty is comprised of active researchers. Indicate which of the Social Psychology (or departmental) faculty you hope to work with and explain why.