

## **Task Analysis for Graduate School Admission**

### General Course Selection

- Take optional courses in area of concentration
- Develop quantitative and writing skills

### General Academic Credentials

- Maintain 3.5+ GPA
- GRE trial during year 03; aim for 1200+

### Major Concentration

- Participate in faculty-supervised research
- Gain practicum experience
- Thesis option (usually impractical)

### Graduate School Application

- Begin search by end of year 03
- Select programs based on goals and probability of admission
- Establish basis for letters of recommendation

### Supplementary Strategies

- Gain additional research experience
- Apply for admission to M.A. program

## **Initial Considerations**

### Vocational and Professional Interests

Activity: Teaching

- Research
- Direct service or consultation

Setting: Higher education (university, medical school)

- Government (military, federal, state)
- Human service setting (clinic, hospital, school)
- Industrial/Organizational (I/O)
- Self-employed (private practice, consulting)

Population: Age (pediatric through elderly)

- Normal v. exceptional
- Exceptionality (corrections, MR, mental health, etc.)

Orientation: Behavioral

- Cognitive

## **Level of Training**

BA Least investment of time and  
Few jobs (no specialized training)

MA Less stringent admission criteria than for PhD  
Less time and \$ than PhD  
Terminal degree in some fields (e.g., education, social work)  
Certification program in behavior analysis  
Transfer option into PhD program but must reapply

PhD Terminal degree in psychology  
Required for licensing and university teaching  
Competitive admissions

PsyD Lengthy and costly training  
Advantages same as PhD  
Less competitive admission, time, and \$; more practical training  
Less research training (possible liability for academic career)

## **Selection of Graduate Programs**

Collect general information on programs

APA, ABA, AABT guides

University web sites

Match interests with programs

Level of training

Content area specialization

Orientation

Match interests with faculty members

Library search

Academic advisor or other sources of information

Other factors

Professional: placement, licensing, related opportunities

Personal: location, financial support

## **Application Process**

Identify selection process if possible

Committee v. individual advisor

Selection criteria

Identify potential advisor(s)

Website and journal search, word of mouth

Make contact, discuss interests, selections, previous graduates, support

Send duplicate admissions materials & supplementary information

Exclusion factors

GPA (1000-1200)

GRE (3.0-3.5)

Coursework (inadequate preparation)

Selection Factors (in order of importance)

Letters of recommendation

Research experience

Personal statement

Work experience, practica, coursework

Other indicators of excellence

## **Specific Strategies**

Direct entry into Ph.D. program from BA

Difficult; requires early planning and excellent credentials

Essential: UG research credit, very high GPA/GRE

Best programs: Iowa, KU, UF, UN-R, WMU, WVU

Post-B.A. experience to strengthen credentials

Excellent strategy but must be research oriented

Best bets: KKI/JHU, NECC

Transfer into Ph.D. program from M.A. program

Also effective but also must emphasize research

Best work-study options: KKI/JHU (UMBC), NECC (NEU)

Best M.A. programs: FIT, OSU, SUI, U Houston (Clear Lake), UN-R, UNT, WMU