



Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program (Psy.D)

Applicant Guide for Admission

LIU Post – Clinical Psychology Doctoral (Psy.D.) Program

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at LIU Post is a practitioner-scholar training program that offers both cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic theoretical training to its students. Students who successfully complete the five-year program will receive a Doctor of Psychology Degree, (Psy.D.).

Entering into doctoral-level training in our program is a five-year, full-time commitment. Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review the program's training model, to speak to current and former students, and to attend our Open House Events. Within this guide to admissions, you will find pertinent information about admission requirements, procedures, and timelines.

For more information about entering doctoral-level study and about becoming a clinical psychologist, please review the American Psychological Associations website at: www.apa.org

This guide is meant to offer applicants practical advice on doctoral training, specifics about the LIU Post program, and offer a general sense of the road ahead as applicants begin considering this career pathway.

Applicants should note that each year offers a new pool of competitive applicants from across the nation, as well as across the globe. For advice on your particular application, applicants are strongly encouraged to have a current or former faculty member or clinical placement supervisor review their application materials.

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Message from the Program Director:

Our program enrolled its first class of 16 students in September, 1990. This academic year, 2014-2015, is the 26th year of operation. There are 100 students in the program, with 50 students in residence this year. To date, 246 students have graduated from the LIU Post Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program with their Psy.D. degrees.

Over the past twenty six years we have developed the program into a first-rate setting for the training of professional psychologists. The faculty is comprised of eight core faculty members whose expertise are in cognitive behavioral and psychodynamic theory. Our small class sizes enables us to provide an intensive and dynamic training model to our student body.

Unique to our program is our attention to changes in the field of professional psychology, as well as our commitment to a dual orientation training. We see our talented and scholarly faculty and students as an integral piece of the program's evolution. As students move through our training program and learn from faculty, faculty also learn from students, whose wide range of experiences and perspectives offer us and their peers the opportunity to explore issues in clinical psychology in innovative and exciting ways.

Throughout the admissions process you will receive information from the program about the admissions timeline, as well as about current happenings over the semester. Applicants should not hesitate to contact the program via email if clarification about the admissions process is needed. Contact information can be found at the end of this guide.

I look forward to assisting your professional development and assure you that the faculty will provide you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for competent practice. We look forward to receiving your application and meeting many of you over our spring semester interview sessions.

Good Luck to You,

Eva L. Feindler, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Program Director

Considerations for Applicants

The following should be considered when applying to a doctoral program in clinical psychology (Psy.D.), and the LIU Post program in particular.

Commitment to the Field

Doctoral work in clinical psychology is a necessary step into the professional field as a psychologist. To become a licensed psychologist, in addition to successfully completing a five-year training program, graduates must complete a post-doctoral training experience and pass the licensing exam (depending on the requirements of their home state). This significant commitment to a career as a licensed clinical psychologist is paramount.

LIU Post: Type of Training Program

Clinical psychologists work in a myriad of settings, from private practice, to consultant work, to working in mental health facilities, to work in schools, to work in large organizations. Graduates of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program are trained within two theoretical orientations: cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic. Within that training, students also receive training in one of the three concentrations: Applied Child, Family Violence or Serious Mental Illness. The training program has at its core mission to serve underserved populations.

One of the unique features of our program is our second year clinical training experience. In addition to second-year coursework, all of our second year students complete an on-site practicum in our Psychological Services Center. Students carry a 4-6 client case load throughout the academic year in addition to running at least 2 groups. As part of their training, students in the second year also receive supervision by a faculty supervisor, a community supervisor, a group supervisor, and the PSC directors. Weekly in-service presentations and meetings are also required. This second-year training experience is designed to give students their first clinical training experience in a highly supervised setting with a wealth of support.

The location of the LIU Post program enables students to take advantage of the many training and clinical opportunities of the tri-state area, in a variety of settings for their third and fourth year externship experiences. In the fifth year, students apply to internship sites in the New York area, as well as out-of-state sites.

In addition to the solid foundational work in clinical psychology, students receive training in both orientations and opportunities for training in our three concentrations, as well as through our weekly lecture series and workshops.

LIU Post: Time Commitment

The program is a full-time commitment, with classes typically held in the first and second year on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00am through 5:00pm. In the third year

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students complete a part-time externship while completing classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In the fourth year students complete a part-time externship while completing classes on Thursdays. In the fifth year students go on full-time (usually paid) internship while also completing their dissertation (if they have not already defended their dissertation). In some cases students take an additional sixth year to complete their dissertation and/or internship year.

Part-time study is not available for students. Aside from 3rd or 4th year choice of concentration, students follow a lock-step curriculum during their time in the program that does not allow for part-time study.

LIU Post: Program Size

The Clinical Psychology Doctoral program takes in a maximum of twenty students per academic year. Student cohorts are intentionally kept small in order to provide students with a dynamic and personal training program, throughout which strong mentoring relationships are formed between students and core faculty members. Students continue in their first through fourth year coursework in cohorts, which form the base of their professional network of peers. Additionally, through the required lectures, colloquiums, and peer-mentorship program, students will interact with other students in both upper and lower student cohorts as they progress through the program.

LIU Post: American Psychological Association Accreditation & NYS Licensure

LIU Post's PsyD program is fully accredited by the [APA](#). In 2016 we will be up for re-accreditation and are confident that we will again receive the full 7-year accreditation that we received in 2009. Accreditation with the APA means that a program has follows guidelines for operation and training as set by the APA's Commission on Accreditation. These guidelines also mean that each program must list on its website information concerning its student outcomes, retention, internship match rates, and cost.

LIU Post's PsyD program is also listed with the [New York State Department of Education as a program](#) that provides the necessary degree requirements in partial fulfillment of the requirements for licensure as a psychologist.

For accreditation and licensure, the APA and NYSDoE lay out a set of topics that must be covered in the curriculum in order to maintain its status. In addition to the list of topics below, the program must prove to the APA that its curriculum, evaluation methods, and faculty are logically and consistently aligned throughout a student's time in the program.

APA Required Topics	NYS Licensure Required Topics
Biological Aspects of Behavior	Biological basis of behavior
Cognitive Aspects of Behavior	Cognitive-affective basis of behavior
Affective Aspects of Behavior	Cognitive-affective basis of behavior
Social Aspects of Behavior	Social basis of behavior
History & Systems	History and systems of psychology

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Psychological Measurement	Psychometrics
Research Methodology	Research design, methodology, and statistics
Techniques of Data Analysis	
Theories and Methods of Evaluation and Effective Interventions	
Individual Differences in Behavior	Individual difference
Human Development	
Dysfunctional Behavior or Psychopathology	
Professional Standards	Scientific and professional ethics and standards of practice
Theories and Methods of Assessment and Diagnosis	Psychometrics
Theories and Methods of Effective Intervention	
Theories and Methods of Consultation	
Theories and Methods of Supervision	
Issues of Culture and Individual Diversity	Issues of cultural and ethnic diversity
Attitude - Lifelong Learning	

In addition to this coursework, programs must ensure that students complete externship and internship hours with a licensed psychologist supervisor.

All APA-accredited programs will have this set of coursework listed, though State licensure requirements may be different depending on the location of the program. Each program’s curriculum and method of training will differ. Applicants should consider what learning environment, educational pace, and program size they might thrive best in based on prior educational experiences. Students spend a considerable amount of time and resources on doctoral training to become a psychologist – it is imperative that you consider which program best suits your needs.

LIU Post: Financial Aid Options

The program does provide students with some amount of financial aid. This may include research assistantships, teaching fellowships, service disparity fellowships, student groups’ leadership roles, grant-funded positions, clinic assistantships, or other projects. Typically these offers are between 10K and 20K in aid (or ~20% to ~50% of students’ total yearly tuition expense). Typically our students take our Unsubsidized Federal Loans, GradPLUS loans, or receive funding from personal sources.

Nationally, Psy.D. programs typically offer less financial aid directly to students than Ph.D. programs would. The nature of the program as a practitioner-scholar program, emphasizing clinical work (rather than intensive research) simply does not provide many of the large grant-funded projects. In addition, Psy.D. programs tend to be larger than Ph.D. programs, thereby

distribution of programs' funds must be made to a larger cohort of students. Each applicant must weigh the differences of the training programs for themselves. Making informed decisions about the financial commitment of any doctoral program is an important professional decision. More information can be gathered from the APA website, as well as through review of resources available online about funding graduate education.

Timing of Application in Your Career Path

The program receives approximately 300 applications every year. This competitive pool of applicants includes students from all over the globe, from various academic and personal backgrounds, and with a myriad of career objectives. Summary data on admissions is available on our webpage. Applicants should apprise themselves of the admission requirements before beginning the applications process.

Having some related field experience is crucial to a success application, as well as for a successful entry into the program's rigorous courses that pull much from students' clinical experiences. For information on how to gain this experience, applicants are encouraged to contact our current students, as well as research the APA and local Psychological Associations' websites.

These considerations will come into play as you make your decision about attending any doctoral-level program. If you have any questions about these or other considerations, please do not hesitate to ask.

Getting Information About the Program

Applicants should inform themselves about the training program in one or more of the following ways:

Before Contacting the Program:

- **Throughout the admissions process, please check our Admissions website for updates: <https://sites.google.com/site/psydadmissions2014/> This will be your best source of information from November through April regarding the stages of the process.**
- Review the curriculum materials available on the program's webpages, including the Student Admissions Outcomes, and Other Data.
- Review the list of current student and alumni contacts available. Contact one or more of these students with any questions about being a student in the program, as well as clinical experiences before, during, and after the program.
- Applicants can also add themselves to the program's Facebook Group page for Prospective students, which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clinical-Psychology-Doctoral-Program-LIU-Prospective-Students/305365402822762>

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- The program maintains a YouTube channel for videos of some of our program lectures and events. On the page applicants can also view videos from our faculty concentration leads, as well as an overview of the training program from the program director. The YouTube channel can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ClinicalPsychologyDP>
- Information on career outcomes, salary information, and other career-related data may be obtained from research the American Psychological Association’s webpage for graduate students. www.apa.org
- Applicants should register for the GRE Subject Test in Psychology, which is only offered in April and November every year. Check the Educational Testing Service website for more information on the exam: <http://www.ets.org/>

Contacting the Program Directly:

- Applicants may contact a faculty member about the program. However, due to the large number of applications we receive every year, faculty cannot meet one-on-one with prospective students.
- Attend a [Graduate Open House event](#). Our program director provides an overview of the training program for prospective students, as well as answers any questions about the program.

Contact the Program Director or Program Coordinator with any lingering questions about the program that you may have. Please note that faculty and staff cannot answer prospective students’ questions about the applicant’s chances in any given admission cycle.

Pre-Requisites for Applying

The program begins accepting applications in October of each academic year for enrollment in the following fall semester. There are **two parts** of the application – online and hardcopy materials.

The deadline to submit the *online portion* of the application is **December 1st**. Applicants must submit the online application before mailing their hardcopy materials. You can put “Personal Statement will be mailed in hardcopy” in the Statement box to avoid delaying submission of your online portion.

All hardcopy materials (listed below) must be received by **December 15th** by our processing center.

Admission decisions will be based on the following factors: academic proficiency, professional accomplishments, proposed intellectual focus, potential for completing a rigorous program, as well as a desire to work with underserved communities.

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An applicant’s eligibility for admission to the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at LIU Post is based on evidence of: intellectual aptitude; personal maturity; commitment to psychology in the public interest; and “fit” with the PsyD Program training model and mission.

In order to have an application considered by the admissions committee, applicants must:

- Bachelor’s Degree
Hold at least a **bachelor’s degree** in psychology or a related field from an accredited college or university, with a competitive GPA. Applicants must have an undergraduate **GPA of 3.0 or better**.
Note: graduate work cannot be used to fulfill or supplement this minimum GPA requirement.

- Pre-Requisite Coursework
Have a minimum of **18 credit hours of psychology**, including courses in:
 - Statistics
 - Research Design or Methods
 - Personality
 - Abnormal PsychologyApplicants must include a listing of these courses, with grades on their CV/resume.

These pre-requisite courses may be completed in the spring and summer semesters leading up to matriculation into the program. Applicants whose course enrollment for the spring semester is not included on their transcripts should include a list of spring and/or summer enrollment with their hardcopy materials. This can be included at the end of your CV.

- GRE Scores
Have **competitive GRE scores** in each of the aptitude subtests & the Psychology subject test. Applicants with scores above the recommended minimums (listed below) will be considered. Applicants with scores below these recommended minimums are strongly encouraged to retake the GREs and wait to apply to the program

Exam Name	Rec. Minimum Score (OLD)	Rec. Minimum Score (NEW)
General GRE Quantitative	500	144
General GRE Verbal	500	153
General GRE Analytical Writing	4.0	N/A
Psychology GRE	550	N/A

Applicants who majored in psychology may apply to the program without the Subject GRE score, but if admitted they will be required to submit their scores before enrollment. There are no exceptions to this requirement.
Note that the Subject test is only given twice a year by ETS.

- Field Work Experience

Have **some fieldwork experience** related to clinical psychology (should be noted on CV/resume, and discussed in personal statement and/or statement of research).

Application Components

The application includes these parts:

Online Form

ONLINE: By December 1st:

- a. online application (must be completed first, by December 1st)

Hardcopy Supplemental Materials

HARDCOPY: By December 15th

- b. CV/resume (with list of psychology coursework and grades, especially the pre-requisites)
- c. official college transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work
- d. 3 letters of recommendation from academic / clinical work sources
- e. a personal statement
- f. statement of research
- g. optional sample of scholarly work (no longer than 10 pages)

Interview

After initial file review, *some* (75-100) applicants will be invited for an interview with the doctoral program in February. The announced dates will be our **ONLY** interview dates. Each interviewing applicant will have a session schedule including

1. a brief program overview;
2. one 30-minute interview with a faculty member;
3. a second 30-minute interview with a faculty member;
4. a Q& A session with 1st & 2nd Years;
5. a Q&A session with 3rd & 4th Years.

Interview Dates

In-Person 2015 Interview Dates will be announced on November 1st, 2014. The interview dates will take place in:

- Late January / Early February

Online Interview Availability

Out-of-State / Out-of-Country SKYPE Interview Dates are:

- Early February (specific dates to be announced on November 1st, 2014).

No additional dates/times will be added to these dates. Please plan accordingly to be available during these 3-day timeframes. Interview invites are emailed to applicants. Applicants are expected to respond to the email invite within 48 hours or the given date/time may be released to another applicant and an alternative date/time sent to the applicant again.

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Final decisions will be made from the pool of interviewed applicants. We will establish a wait list, depending on the pool of applicants. Admitted and waitlisted applicants are invited to program events and open classes in March and April.

We will enroll a class of 15-20 for the Fall 2015 cohort.

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please email the program at: Pamela.gustafson@liu.edu . Please do not email multiple staff members of LIU with duplicate questions. If the program cannot answer your question, we will forward your message onto a staff member who can.

Application Instructions & Deadlines

Applications to the Psy.D. program are accepted for the fall semester only. Each application contains an online component and hard copy components. The online application component must be submitted and received by the Graduate Admissions Office on or before December 1. All additional application materials must be postmarked by the December 15th deadline, including:

- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. (Advanced Placement credit earned in High School not required)
- 3 letters of recommendation (with cover sheet)
- 3-page Personal Statement (include in online application and in hard copy)
- 3-page statement of research/inquiry,
- An optional ten-page writing sample,
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores (including the Subject GRE). Both should be sent electronically through ETS to LIU Post.
- C.V./resume
- A non-refundable application fee of \$50.
- Applicants may submit PPI evaluation reports through ETS. This is NOT required, but highly recommended. Information on the Personal Potential Index is available on the ETS website at www.ets.org/ppi/applicant

All required materials must be sent by mail to the Graduate Admissions Processing Center. No materials should be sent to the main LIU Post Campus or to the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program directly. Hardcopy materials must be sent to the processing center:

LIU Post
Graduate Admissions Processing Center
15 Dan Road, Ste. 102
Canton, MA 02021

***For applicants who are reapplying: You must resubmit all documents. You must resubmit your GRE scores ONLY if you have retaken them since last applying.

Submitting an Application

1. Required Admissions Application

Applicants to the Psy.D. Program must complete the Long Island University Online Application for Admission.

For the field "Campus", select "LIU Post"

For the field "Admit type", select "Graduate" or "International Graduate" as appropriate

For the field "Admit term" select "Fall"

For the field "I'll be applying as", select "full time"

For the field "Intended major", select "Psychology-Clinical PSY.D."

Online applications must be submitted and received by the Graduate Admissions Office on or before December 1

All hardcopy materials (C.V., personal statement, statement of research/inquiry, 3 letters of recommendation, transcripts, and 10-page sample of writing (optional) should be sent directly to the Admissions Processing Center listed below. These materials are due at the center by the December 15 deadline:

LIU Post
Graduate Admissions Processing Center
15 Dan Road, Ste. 102
Canton, MA 02021

Note: All GRE scores (#8 below) will come electronically from ETS.
Do not send any materials directly to the program's offices. This will delay your application being processed.

2. Application Fee

To complete your application requirements, please be sure to send the \$50 non-refundable application fee. You may pay the application fee by calling the LIU Post Bursar at 516-299-2323. All major credit cards are accepted. You also may pay by mailing a \$50 check or money order to the Bursar's Office, LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville, NY 11548-1300. Please make the check payable to Long Island University and note the student's full name, date of birth, and telephone number on the front of the check.

3. Transcripts

Request an official copy of your undergraduate and graduate transcript(s) from any college(s) you have attended to the Processing Center

4. Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required. These letters should be written by persons who can comment from personal knowledge on the academic and/or professional qualifications of the applicant. Applicants to the Psy.D. Program must submit at least one letter of recommendation from a current or former instructor or professor. Employers, former instructors or professional colleagues of status may write the second and third letters of recommendation. Letters should address your academic potential for doctoral-level work, as well as your aptitude for work as a clinical psychologist and any experiences that may speak to those capacities.

Recommenders should include the “Letter of Recommendation Cover Form” along with their letter of recommendation for the applicant. The applicant must sign the waiver/no waiver piece at the top of the form and must include their identifying information.

5. Personal Statement

Write a statement describing your personal educational and professional goals and discuss what you hope to gain from doctoral study at the LIU Post. You should submit your Personal Statement as part of your hardcopy materials (in addition to copying and pasting it into your online application).

The statement should be one to three pages in length, typed and double-spaced. Be sure to include your full name and page numbers in the upper-right-hand corner of each sheet and include the heading “Personal Statement” on the top of each page. Because our Doctoral program is specifically geared to training clinical practitioners, your personal statement should address two or more of the following:

1. Your specific goals in applying to the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology.
2. The scope and nature of any prior clinical experience.
3. In addition to general training in the practice of clinical psychology, the LIU Post doctoral program emphasizes training in
 - a. Applied Child Psychology,
 - b. Family Violence,
 - c. Serious Mental Illness,
 - d. CBT theoretical orientation
 - e. psychodynamic theoretical orientation

6. Statement of Research/Inquiry

Write a statement describing your primary areas of clinical research or inquiry interest. You may choose to make a connection between your general research interests and that of our one of our faculty members. However, you are not required to choose a faculty member as a research mentor at this point. You may rather choose to write a statement about your own past and future research interests. The statement should be one to three pages in length. You will submit your statement in hard copy.

Be sure to include your full name and page numbers in the upper-right-hand corner of each sheet. Include the heading “Statement of Research/Inquiry” on the top of the page.

7. Curriculum Vitae/Résumé

Submit a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes any relevant clinical experience (volunteer or formal experience is fine). Be sure to include your full name and page numbers in the upper-right-hand corner of each sheet. Additionally, be sure that the email and phone number included on your CV are the correct contact information for you.

8. Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Applicants are required to submit scores for the general test (verbal, quantitative and analytic) of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the subject GRE in Psychology. It is the applicant’s responsibility to request that the Educational Testing Service (ETS) forward official GRE scores directly to the LIU Post. Inquiries concerning this testing program and application to take the tests should be addressed to the Graduate Record Examinations, Educational Testing Service at www.gre.org, or call 1-800-GRE-CALL. C.W. Post’s Educational Testing Service Code is 2070.

**Applications will be reviewed without submission of Subject GRE scores. However, admitted students must submit Subject GRE scores prior to enrollment in the first fall semester.

Applicants should note that when checking the status of the processing of their materials using the LIU Post applicant online system, Subject GREs will remain as “initiated” or “incomplete” on the applicants’ online status. Additionally other items, such as transcripts, may appear as “initiated” or “incomplete” if you have not yet finished your degree. This will not hold up your application from being sent to the program for review.

9. Sample of Scholarly Work (Optional)

A sample of a published work or other scholarly writing (Not required, but strongly suggested; limited to 10 pages; this can be a portion of any academic or clinical writing you have done). Please do not send more than 10 pages.

Be sure to include your full name and page numbers in the upper-right-hand corner of each sheet. Include the heading “Sample of Scholarly Work” on the top of each page.

10. Personal Potential Index (Optional)

Applicants may submit PPI evaluation reports through ETS. This evaluation is not required, but highly recommended. Information on the Personal Potential Index is available on the ETS website at www.ets.org/ppi/applicant

The PPI is an online evaluation tool. Your recommenders will receive a link to complete the online evaluation of you. These recommenders can either be the same as your hardcopy letter recommenders or may be additional references. All recommenders should be from your professional and/or academic career(s). The PPI is an additional evaluation tool. If an applicant chooses to submit their PPI, the applicant must still have 3 letters of recommendation accompanying this application.

11. International Students – Degree Requirements

International applicants must complete the Long Island University Online Application for Admission (select “International Graduate” in the field “Admit Type” and select “Psychology-Clinical PSY.D.” in the field “Intended Major.”)

Applicants who do not have a master’s degree from a U.S. institution must also submit official score results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The required minimum acceptable TOEFL score is: 100 Internet-based (250 computer based or 600 paper-based) or minimum IELTS score: 7.5.

International students whose native language is English, or who have received a degree from an accredited college or university where the only medium of instruction is English, may have the English Language proficiency requirement waived. The waiver is determined on an individual basis following a review of the student’s application.

Timeline for Admissions Application Materials

Material Item		August-September		October	November	December
Online Application				Complete Online Application* <u>before</u> submitting hardcopy materials		Deadline: December 1
Non-refundable \$50 Application Fee				Send check/money order OR Or pay online by credit card		
Hardcopy Materials to Processing Center	Transcripts	Order official transcripts from all colleges/universities				Deadline: December 15
	3 Letters of Recommendation	Request Letters of Recommendation from 3 sources (at least 1 must be academic professional)			Submit sealed/signed in hardcopy	
	One 3-page Personal Statement*	Begin drafting/finalizing	Copy/paste Personal Statement into Online Application. Also include in hardcopy with other supplemental materials.			
	One 3-page Statement of Research/Inquiry	Begin drafting/finalizing	Finalize & Submit			
	C.V. / Resume	Begin drafting/finalizing	Finalize & Submit			
	10-page sample of writing (optional)	Choose writing sample (if desired)	Finalize & Submit			
Electronically Submitted	Graduate Record Exam (General)	Take Exam (Quantitative, Verbal, and Analytical Writing)	Submit Scores Electronically	(Re/) Take Exam (Quantitative, Verbal, and Analytical Writing)	Submit Scores Electronic-ally	
	Graduate Record Exam (Subject)	Study for the Subject GRE Register for the exam (Contact ETS directly)			Subject GRE Offered only in April and November	
	Personal Potential Index (optional)	Request PPI evaluation from recommenders (Contact ETS directly)				

Admission Process Timeline

Applications are accepted from October through December 1st.

- Early application is recommended.
- Submit online application
- Beginning in October, applicants must send hard copy materials to the Processing Center. These materials are matched to the applicants' online application.
- Applicants can monitor the status of their applications by login onto the LIU Account created at application. Please note that materials may take 2-3 weeks to be fully processed and reflected in the application status.

The LIU Post admissions review process is completed in four stages:

Stage One: Review of Applicant Files (December - January):

We will begin accepting applications in October. The deadline for all application materials to be received is December 15th. The program receives approximately 300 applications each year.

Applications will be sent for review from Graduate Admissions to the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program only when complete. Once received in the Psy.D. Program, the Review Committee evaluates the applicant file.

Each file is reviewed by two core faculty members. Faculty are looking for:

- a. Competitive undergraduate GPA (evidence of academic potential)
- b. Competitive GRE scores (the General Exam (including verbal, quantitative, and writing) & the Psychology Subject exam)
- c. Strong letters of recommendation attesting to clinical experience and/or potential in the field of clinical psychology. At least one letter must be from an academic professional.
- d. Strong Personal Statement and Statement of Research.
Applicants should NOT tailor these statements to fit the program's training model and/or faculty interests. Faculty look for unique applicants whose experiences, potential, and interest complement our training program. Applicants may note particular interest in work with faculty, but are not required to tailor their statements to such work.
- e. Samples of scholarly writing are considered, though not required. Applicants should not submit any more than 10 pages of any writing piece.
- f. PPI evaluation reports are considered for applicants who elected to submit these evaluations from recommenders.

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These initial faculty reviews determine who will receive an interview offer. Approximately 100 applicants will be invited for an interview at the LIU Post Campus. Invitations for interviews are sent via email to applicants. Each applicant will be invited to one 3-hour interview session. Coordination and scheduling of these dates takes place via email with the program coordinator. Applicants are sent their interview session schedule in advance.

All applicants who do not receive an interview are encouraged to reapply.

Stage Two: Interview Process (January/ February):

Following a program overview by the director, each interviewed applicant will have two separate interviews (30 minutes each) with a faculty member. Additionally, these applicants will have the chance to speak with current students about the program, as well as hear an overview of the program. These interview days are approximately 4 hours, and held over the course of four-five days in late February and early March.

Interviewed applicants will submit a financial aid form to be considered for aid from the program (research assistantships, teaching fellowships, Service Disparity Fellowships, etc.). The program will send you the online link to this form. Financial aid applications are not reviewed until the program has made final admissions decisions.

Also, interviewed applicants will also be asked to complete a survey about the LIU Post interview process.

Stage Three: Admit & Wait-Listed Process (March-April):

The program will have a rolling admittance of 20 applicants at a time in order to reach our desired cohort of 20 students. We will maintain a waitlist of approximately 30 additional applicants (from the interviewed applicant pool). As admitted applicants decline our invitation, we will move onto the next applicant in the pool. Wait-listed applicants will be able to find out where on the wait-list they stand.

All admitted and wait-listed applicants will be invited to sit in on classes, attend lectures and events, and speak with current students and faculty before making their final decision.

Stage Four: Acceptance (April):

All admitted applicants will have until April 15th to send in a \$500 deposit and acceptance form in order to hold their place in the incoming class.

- The deposit must be submitted on April 15th (via phone).
- The acceptance form must be post-marked by the 15th.
- Applicants should email the program director the acceptance form by the April 15th deadline as well.

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Admitted applicants who will not be accepting our offer are encouraged to let us know as soon as possible so that we may open the slot to the next applicant.

*Note that all APA-accredited programs must give admitted applicants until April 15th to accept an offer of admission, following the Council on Graduate Schools guidelines for graduate admissions.

Wait List:

We will have a rolling wait list of up to 50 applicants, depending on the applicant pool. In some cases waitlisted applicants will not hear a final answer until after this April 15th date. We ask that all admitted and waitlisted applicants who have accepted at another university let us know as soon as possible so that the slot can be opened for another candidate.

Limited Matriculation

Additional Pre-Doctoral Experiences and/or Academic Work

In some cases, admitted applicants may be recommended for doctoral-preparation work over the summer before beginning the program. This might include taking related courses in psychology, working on writing skills, or language programs.

After Entry to the Program

Admitted applicants must submit official copies of their transcripts and GRE scores in order to fully matriculate. Additionally, the admissions committee may contact your recommenders in regards to your letters of reference.

What's Next If I Am Denied?

If you have heard back from the Graduate Admissions Office that you have not been granted acceptance to the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at LIU: Post, we would like to offer you some basic advice for next steps to take in terms of your graduate education path.

First, know that we received close to 300 applications every year. The applicant pool becomes more competitive every year, which is a wonderful thing for the field of clinical psychology.

A number of factors go into the admission committee's decisions when reviewing files. These include past academic performance (transcripts and GRE scores), letters of recommendation, clinical experience, research experience, personal and research statements, as well as fit with the program. When looking at ways to improve your application in order to reapply to this program, keep in mind the following:

Academic Performance

- Our incoming student cohorts have had an average GPA is at or above 3.5 over the last ten years

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- Our incoming student cohorts have had general GRE scores in the 550-700 range, around 5.0 for writing, and around 650 for the Psychology Exam.
- If your scores do not fall into these ranges, you may want to consider attending a GRE prep course and retaking the exam.

Experiences

- Our students typically have previous clinical experience, and/or experience researching in the field.
- Our students typically receive in-depth letters from recommenders that include information about recent achievements in clinical experiences and/or classroom settings. We always look for at least one comprehensive academic reference.
- Our students typically have a wide-range of clinical and research backgrounds.
- Pre-doctoral clinical experience can be received in a number of ways. Applicants should see the American Psychological Association’s website for more information on such opportunities.

Personal Statements and Research Statements

- One of the main things that sets denied applicants apart from those who have been accepted is the depth of their knowledge of the field and their commitment to clinical practice that comes across both in their statements and in their interview.
- Applicants whose backgrounds and experience are diverse are able to offer the program a wide range of experience in which to pull from as students begin their training here.
- Our program is a very close-niche program in which interpersonal relationships are key to getting the most out of our training. Self-reflection, diverse experiences, as well as academic aptitude are all integral pieces to highly qualified applicants.

“Fit” with the Program

- As many of our current students have put it, “fit” with a program is often hard to define. As a Psy.D. program, the clinical basis of our work is an important piece of deciphering applicants’ interest in the program. The clinical training requires a tremendous amount of dedication, time, effort, and ability.
- We maintain a relatively small court of students who should be aligned with our program mission and concentrations. Applicants with interest in other areas that we do not cover (forensic applications, neuropsychology, addictions, behavioral health, etc.) should consider other programs more in line with their progressive professional goals.

Other LIU Post Programs to Consider

If you find that you are not yet ready to re-apply, there are a few other options you may want to pursue. First, look into other programs at LIU: Post. Our graduate programs in Applied Behavioral Analysis (in the main Psychology Department), in Mental Health Counseling (in the College of Education, Information and Technology), and in Social Work (in the School of Health Professions and Nursing) are often programs our applicants ultimately choose. These programs open up many career opportunities for those looking to enter the field of mental health professions. While these programs are not associated with the doctoral program and will not allow future students to waive any credits in the doctoral program, they may offer alternatives into the field of mental health that are equally fulfilling professionally.

For more information on these other mental health graduate programs at LIU: POST, please contact the following advisors:

- Applied Behavioral Analysis, Dr. Nancy Frye,
nancy.frye@liu.edu 516-299-2377
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Dr. James Colangelo,
James.Colangelo@liu.edu 516-299-3674
- Social Work, Betsy Klipera
Betsy.Klipera@liu.edu , 516-299-2750
- Clinical Art Therapy, Dr. Christine Kerr
Christine.kerr@liu.edu, 516-299-3510

Be sure to review the American Psychological Associations website on graduate education at:
www.apa.org

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Do I need to take the GRE? What if I have a Master Degree already?**
All applicants must take the GRE general and psychology exams. No exceptions to this are made. The test is only offered by ETS twice a year. Applicants who have not taken the November psychology exam may submit their applications before taking the April exam. However, if accepted to the program, you will still be required to take the exam and submit your scores in order to enroll into the fall 2015.
- **Do I have to take the Subject GRE?**
Yes. All applicants must take the Subject GRE. However, since this subject test is only given twice a year, we do allow applicants to apply to the program without the scores. If accepted, students must take the April exam and submit their scores in order to be allowed to enroll in classes that fall.
- **Will directly contacting the director or faculty with my credentials increase my chances of receiving an interview?**
Submitting letters and/or CVs to faculty or staff of the program will not increase your chances of receiving an interview. Note that these documents will not be placed in your application file. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to consider all correspondences with program faculty, staff, and current students formal.
- **Can I submit more than three letters of recommendation?**
You may submit more than 3 letters of recommendation, however we do not guarantee that the reviewer will read more than 3 of the submitted letters.
- **What kind of formatting do you expect on the hardcopy materials?**
Each page of your CV, Personal Statement, Statement of Research Inquiry, and Scholarly Work **MUST** be labeled with your name, last 4 digits of social security number, and the material type in the top right corner of your pages, (e.g.: NAME - ##### – Personal Statement; NAME - #####– Research Statement; NAME - ##### - CV; NAME - ##### - Scholarly Work). This ensures quick and easy processing of your materials.

- **I see two addresses to send the hardcopy materials for my application. Which one do I use?**

We are now using a processing center in MA. Your materials should be sent there. However, if you already submitted them to the Brookville, NY campus address, that is fine, the materials will be forwarded by us to the processing center. The Processing Center address is: LIU Post, Graduate Admissions Processing Center, 15 Dan Road, Ste. 102, Canton, MA 02021

Applicants should NOT send documents via a mailing service that requires a signature.

- **Can I submit all of my materials online?**

No. The general application is completed online, (including copying and pasting your personal statement into the online form). No documents can be attached to the online application. Your supplemental materials (CV, statements, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and optional 10 pages of scholarly work) must be submitted in hardcopy to our processing center. These materials get scanned in and added to your file for the program to review. Through ETS you will submit your GRE scores electronically.

- **I have a degree in a related field already. How many transfer credits will I receive?**

Students are able to transfer up to 12 graduate-level transfer credits. Students will need to submit a request form, the original syllabus, and their transcripts in order for our faculty to consider the transfer request. Requests are only granted in cases where the former graduate course matches up to our courses, and in which the students' grade was acceptable to our faculty member.

- **Will transferring credits reduce my tuition expense or time in the program?**

Note that transferring credits will not reduce the amount of time a student spends in our five-year program. Transferring 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year courses also will not change the tuition expense in these years, as students are under a flat tuition rate.

It is important to note that in some cases, transferring 3rd or 4th year classes may reduce students' credit load, causing issues with their eligibility for federal loan monies above their tuition expenses.

Transferring credits will enable students to choose between two options, depending on scheduling and time. In some cases students may elect to take an extra course. Others may be able to complete upper level coursework ahead of time. Others may simply elect to have some extra time in a given semester in which a scheduled class was transferred.

- **My undergraduate work was poor and is reflected in a poor GPA and transcript. However, my graduate work is stellar. Will this affect my application to the program?**

The short answer is yes. The review committee will look at the total of your application, including former academic work. However, applicants may include a supplemental brief paragraph to explain poor academic performance and how it has been remediated. This should be included with your hardcopy materials.

- **I do not do well on standardized exams and my GRE scores are low. Will this affect my application to the program?**

The short answer is yes. The review committee will look at the total of your application, including aptitude tests. However, applicants have two options if their GRE scores are low. Applicants may include a supplemental brief paragraph explaining poor performance on these exams. This should be included with your hardcopy materials.

Additionally, applicants with low GREs are strongly encouraged to submit PPI evaluation reports (via ETS). This additional evaluation piece may provide the review committee with a more detailed view of applicants' abilities academically and clinically.

The program is highly invested in having students do well in every aspect of the training program. It is imperative that students are ready for doctoral-level work in clinical psychology. Therefore the program may require remediation for applicants before and during the program for those whose admission files indicated deficiencies.

- **How do I check on the status of my application?**

To check on the status of your application, please log onto the account you created when you applied. Note that the processing center may take up to 14 business days to process your materials. We ask that applicants not call the program or Graduate Admissions for status updates. We make every effort to get information out to applicants as soon as it is available.

- **I have been monitoring the status of my application through my account. I see that my transcripts are noted as “received” but not “completed”. Why is this?**

A transcript may be noted as received for these reasons:

- g. Upon receipt, all transcripts are noted as received initially by the processing team. Once the transcript is reviewed by an admissions counselor, a determination will be made as to whether the transcript should be noted as completed. A completed transcript is one where the degree has been noted on the transcript, or it is a transcript where a degree will not ever be noted. An example of the latter is when a student submits a transcript which contains credits earned at a given institution, but where a degree will not be conferred.
 - h. Transcripts which show a degree in progress will be noted as received. If admitted, the student will be asked to submit a degree noted transcript. Once received, the transcript will be noted as completed.
- **Can I apply to the LIU Brooklyn Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology AND the LIU Post Psy.D. Program in Clinical Psychology?**
Yes. These programs are completely separate from one another. Applicants may apply to both programs. Please note that each program may have different application procedures and timelines. Once an applicant submits their application online for one of the LIU doctoral programs, they should contact Graduate Admissions (via email) to ensure that their document checklist is correctly updated in our online system.
 - **Should I contact the Graduate Admissions Office about my application?**

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Calling the Graduate Admissions Office to check on the status of your application will impede their ability to process the applications and get them to the program. We ask that applicants be patient throughout this process. Additionally, the program office will not be able to tell you if all of your documents have been received.

- **I live out of state (or out of the country), and will not be able to come for an in-person interview. Is there an alternative?**

The program will arrange for applicants from outside of the area to have an interview over video conference. The program sends all interview invitations via email. Applicants will need to send their Skype username and at least four available 30 minute slots during the same few weeks our in-person interviews will take place.

- **Who will look at my file? Who will I have an interview with?**

All applications are reviewed by at least two faculty members in the program. All interviewed applicants will be interviewed by at least two faculty members in the program.

- **How can I apply for financial aid from the program?**

All admitted students will be given a financial aid application to complete. We make every effort to provide admitted applicants with a financial aid package offer at the time of acceptance. Within this application applicants are given the opportunity to indicate which faculty members they would like to work for, apply for teaching fellowships, as well for SafeZone coordinator positions and Service Disparity Fellowships

- **I didn't get in, who can I talk to about making my application stronger?**

Faculty and staff are not able to offer feedback on individual applicants' materials before applying to the program. We recommend looking over our student outcomes listings (average GREs, GPAs, etc), as well as discussing pre-doctoral experiences with our current students to gain an understanding of our student body.

- **I am reapplying, do I need to resubmit my documents or can you use the same ones?**

Applicants who are reapplying must resubmit all documents. It is highly recommended that you review and revise your materials.

Applicants must resubmit GRE scores ONLY if you have retaken them since last applying. Former scores will remain in the LIU Post application system from the previous academic year.

More questions?

After reading through our website, attending a Graduate Open House and/or contacting one of our student representatives, if you have specific questions about the program and/or admissions process, please feel free to email the program coordinator at: Pamela.gustafson@liu.edu

LIU Post Contact Information

Relevant Webpages:

- LIU Post: www.liu.edu
- Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program:
<http://liu.edu/CWPost/Academics/Schools/CLAS/Dept/Psychology/PsyD2.aspx>
- Graduate Admissions (for events and application information):
<http://liu.edu/CWPost/Admissions/Graduate.aspx>

Graduate Admissions Staff

- Kathy Riley, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions
Kathy.riley@liu.edu
- Jaclyn Russo, Admissions Counselor Jaclyn.russo@liu.edu

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Director & Staff

- Eva Feindler, Ph.D., Program Director eva.feindler@liu.edu
- Pam Gustafson, Program Coordinator pamela.gustafson@liu.edu

Best of luck to you!



Appendix

Additional Information & Resources for Prospective Applicants to Psy.D. Programs

The following pages are from outside sources in regards to applying to doctoral programs. For more information, applicants should research the particular sources from which these pieces were culled.

In addition to these collections, applicants would benefit from thorough review of information available from the following organizations:

- Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapists
- American Psychological Association
- American Psychological Association – Division 39
- International Association for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy
- International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS)
- International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis
- National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD)
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)
- New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA)
- NYSDoE: Licensing Information for Clinical Psychologists
- Information from CUDCUP

http://cudcp.us/files/Reports/CUDCP_2010_Psy_Grad_School_Fact_sheet.pdf



Letter of Recommendation Cover Form
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program (Psy.D.)

Mail to:
LIU Post
Graduate Admissions Processing Center
15 Dan Road, Ste. 102
Canton, MA 02021

Part A: To be completed by Applicant

I HEREBY WAIVE DO NOT WAIVE MY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION RECORDED ON THIS FORM AND ANY SUPPLEMENTARY SHEETS ATTACHED TO IT.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Social Security Number (Last 4 digits) _____ - _____ - _____

Applicant's Name _____

Semester applying for: **Fall ONLY for PsyD Program** Year 20 __ __ DOB: __ - - 19

Part B: To be completed by Recommender

Name _____

Recommender's Professional Position _____

Relation to Applicant (professor/employer) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone (_____) _____

Please give a frank assessment of the applicant. The Graduate Admissions Committee seeks your opinion regarding the applicant and your judgment regarding their ability to succeed in the field of clinical psychology. Letters may address academic potential for doctoral-level work, as well as the applicant's aptitude for work as a clinical psychologist and any previous experiences with the applicant that may speak to those capacities.

Please include a letter of reference as an attachment to this form.

The Graduate Admissions Committee thanks you in advance for your assistance in evaluating this applicant.

Please mail this form and your letter of recommendation directly to the address above or return it to the applicant in a *sealed envelope* with your *signature over the seal*. Be sure to include the applicant's name in the body of the letter. Electronic submissions of letters of recommendation cannot be accepted at this time.

Recommender Signature _____ Date _____

Recommended Reading for Graduate Students Entering Psy.D. Programs

- Borden, Kathi and E. John McIluried. "Professional Psychology Education and Training: Models, Sequence, and Current Issues." in David Richard and Steven Huprich (eds), Assessment, Treatment, and Research. New York: Elsevier, 2009.
- Bruss, Katherine and Mary Kopala, "Graduate School training in Psychology: Its Impact Upon the Development of Professional Identity." *Psychotherapy*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Winter 1993. 685-691.
- Canna, Mark A. and Brian M. Freidenberg, "Special Series The Graduate School Experience: Academic and Personal Opportunities and Challenges Within Psychology Doctoral Programs." *The Behavior Therapist*, Feb. 2003, Vol. 26, No. 2.
- Courtois, C. A., & Gold, S. N. (2009). The need for inclusion of psychological trauma in the professional curriculum: A call to action. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, And Policy*, 1(1), 3-23.
- Eby, M., Chin, J.L., Rollock, D., Schwartz, J. & Worell, F.. (2011). Professional Psychology Training in the Era of a Thousand Flowers: Dilemmas and Debates for the Future. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 5(2), May 2011, 57-68.
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- Myers, S.B. et al (2012) Self Care Practices and Perceived Stress Levels Among Psychology Graduate Students. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 6(1) 55-66.
- Norcross, John C.. (2005) "The Psychotherapist's Own Psychotherapy: Educating and Developing Psychologists." *American Psychologist*, Vol. 60, No. 8, 840-850.
- O'Halloran M. Sean and Theresa O'Halloran (2001) "Secondary Traumatic Stress in the Classroom: Ameliorating Stress in Graduate Students." *Teaching of Psychology*, Vol. 28 (2), 92-97.
- Smith, Penni L. and Shannon Burton Moss. (2009) "Psychologist Impairment: What Is It, How Can It Be Prevented, and What Can Be Done to Address It?" *Clinical Psychology and Practice*, Vol. 16 (1), 1-15.
- Stricker, G., & Trierweiler, S. (2006). The local clinical scientist: A bridge between science and practice. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, (1), 37-46.
- Walker, Barbara B., and Susan London (2007) "Novel Tools and Resources for Evidence-based Practice in Psychology." *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, Vol. 63 (7), 633-642.