

# Lakehead University Clinical Psychology Program

## Application FAQ

### Q: How do I apply?

There are two application steps. To start your application, please go to the Faculty of Graduate Studies webpage: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate> After you have completed the first step, you will be emailed instructions for completing the second step (check your LU email account).

### Q: What documentation is required?

Application to the MA and PhD Clinical Psychology programs require:

- Application (including top 3 potential supervisors, and research interest)
- ~~GRE General and Subject~~ \*\* Due to COVID-19 GRE scores will not be required or accepted for applications due December 15, 2020
- 3 references
- Optional: 1 additional “clinical” reference
- CV
- Statement of interest
- Transcripts from all postsecondary institutions you have attended
- New for applications due December 15, 2020: COVID-19 academic impact statement (optional)

Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies webpage for more information about the above terminology:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/academic-information/terminology#grepsychology>

Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies webpage for all of our program requirements:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/programs/masters/psychology-clinical/node/7257>

### Q: Are GRE scores required?

No. For the 2020/21 admissions cycle, our program has waived the GRE requirement. GRE scores are not required and will not be considered for the current application cycle.

### Q: I think that COVID-19 has negatively impacted my application. What should I do?

Applicants can describe if and how COVID-19 impacted their application (for example, final grades, thesis research, conference presentations). Look for the "COVID-19 impact" section in the application steps.

**Q: The application deadline is December 15th. Does that mean all documentation must be provided by the 15th?**

Yes. In order to be considered for the 1st round of offers, your application and supporting documentation needs to be submitted by the deadline date. The review committee will begin reviewing applications almost immediately following the deadline date, and will not review applications that are missing required documents.

**Q: Can I continue to submit documentation to complete my application after December 15th?**

No. If applicants submit required documentation after December 15th, we cannot guarantee your application will be considered.

**Q: Do I need to secure a Supervisor before I apply?**

No. Applicants do not need to secure a supervisor. Applicants are asked to indicate their top 3 potential supervisors on their application. Once an applicant meets the acceptance threshold, as determined by a review committee, offers will be made based on supervisor fit and availability until the program is full.

It is highly recommended that applicants review Faculty research areas and interests (available to view on the Psychology department home page: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/undergraduate-programs/psychology>) and contact potential supervisor(s) about their research and supervisor availability via email before listing potential supervisors on their application.

**Q: What is the minimum average that is required for the MA Clinical program?**

Applicants must have a minimum average of 70% in order to apply to the MA Clinical program. Applicants are assessed based on the entirety of their application. However, to help applicants gauge their competitiveness, the following data are provided (based on applicants who received an offer for Fall 2020):

- Average Psychology GPA (based on undergraduate psychology courses): 85.1%
- Range: 80.21 – 88.67%

**Q: Do you accept any degrees other than an Honours Psychology degree?**

- No. The MA Clinical program requires an Honours Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree in Psychology.

### **Q: I don't have an Undergraduate Thesis, can I still be considered without it?**

No. Applicants are required to have completed an undergraduate Thesis (or equivalent).

### **Q: What do you look for in a successful applicant? How can I be competitive?**

Applicants are rated for admissibility by a review committee based on the following:•

- GPA (and particularly the average in all Psychology courses)
- ~~GRE scores~~ \*\* Due to COVID-19 GRE scores are not required or accepted for applications due December 15, 2020
- Research experience and activities (such as volunteer/paid positions, conference presentations, publications, thesis, etc.)
- Reference letters
- Personal statement of interest
- New for applications due December 15, 2020: Applicants can describe if/how COVID-19 impacted their application

The clinical programs are competitive, and students should keep in mind that they are competing with the pool of applicants for that year.

### **Q: Who should my required 3 references be from?**

The reference letters (3) should be from faculty or academic/professional supervisors with whom you have a history, such as someone you worked for as a student researcher, or who you have met with several times throughout a semester and therefore is familiar with your work. The goal is to ask someone who knows you well, and someone who can comment on the areas assessed (e.g., academic preparedness, oral and written communication skills, initiative, judgement, research skill, and overall academic ability). The referee will also be asked to comment on your professional suitability for clinical training (e.g., ability to function well under stress, sensitivity to others, awareness of interpersonal impact, receptiveness to constructive feedback, professionalism).

We strongly recommend that one of the references be from your thesis supervisor. References should not be from a family member or friend.

### **Q: What if a referee cannot comment on my professional suitability for clinical training? What if they only know me in a research/academic capacity?**

Many academic/research supervisors will also be able to comment on your suitability for clinical training (e.g., ability to function well under stress, sensitivity to others, awareness of interpersonal impact, receptiveness to constructive feedback, and professionalism). However, referees can also indicate “no basis for judgement” if they do not have enough information to make an informed judgement.

Applicants can choose to provide a fourth reference, focused only on professional suitability for clinical training, should they so desire. Once again, this reference should not be from family members or friends, but rather should be from a person who knows you in an academic or relevant professional context.

### **Q: You require a CV, what information should I include?**

The CV should focus on relevant postsecondary education and experiences.

You can learn more about a CV here: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/academic-information/terminology#cv>

### **Q: Do you require an interview?**

No. There is no formally scheduled interview required as part of the admission process. However please refer to the question about potential supervisor(s) above.

### **Q: I have applied, what can I expect now?**

Applicants are welcome to check on the status of their application anytime in the Lakehead University online portal (myInfo), follow these steps: Once you have logged into your Lakehead University myInfo account, choose the “For Applicants” tab. The Graduate Studies Online Application section includes an option, “My Application Status.” You can check that tab for updates on your application status.

Admission decisions begin in January. While we make every effort to notify applicants in a timely manner, we receive many applications and the admissions process is usually ongoing until the end of March.

Successful applicants will first hear directly from their potential supervisor to informally let the applicant know they are being recommended for admission. A formal offer letter is sent to the applicant from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students have until April 15th to accept an offer.

Unsuccessful applicants are notified by the Faculty of Graduate Studies after April 15th.

If you have not heard about the status of your application by mid-April, please feel free to be in touch with the Psychology Program Coordinator.

### **Q: I have questions about the application or my application status, who can I contact?**

If you have questions about the application assessment process, please contact the Clinical Psychology Program Admissions Team by emailing [apply.psych@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:apply.psych@lakeheadu.ca)