

# The MAPS Committee Fall 2020 Workshop Series

## How to Apply to Graduate School

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The logo for MAPS (Master's and Postgraduate Association of St. Mary's University) is located in the top right corner. It consists of a red square with a white border, containing the letters 'MAPS' in white and a small icon of two people.

**Questions to ask yourself:** Think of schools you're interested in: Department Webpage, Funding, Admission Requirements (GRE, Letters of Rec, etc.), Program Structure, Classes Offered, Research Areas, Specializations/Minors, Teaching Opportunities/Requirements, Licensure & Accreditation

1. What is your career goal?
2. How long are you willing to be in school for?
3. Funding Opportunities (Guaranteed vs. Not)
4. What is your level of interest in research?

### **Basic Application:**

**Picking a Supervisor:** Your supervisor will be one of the most important people you work with in graduate school! Do your research when looking into potential supervisors - but at the end of the day, it's all about match! Consider availability for graduate students, research focus, clinical focus, "vibe" and expectations. Contact potential supervisors in advance and ask questions!

**Statement of Purpose/Letter of Intent:** Why do you want to go to graduate school? Why will you succeed? What can you offer? What are your research/clinical interests? Aim for 2 single-spaced pages. Ex: Introduction, Experience, Why this program/lab.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Programs will typically ask for 2-3 letters of recommendation. Get letters from professors who KNOW you and your academic abilities. Give your referees AT LEAST 4 weeks notice. Most letters are sent electronically.

**CV:** Different programs may ask for different formats of your CV (CCV, regular CV, etc). Showcase your strengths and extra-curricular - this shows time management! Ex. education, language skills, relevant work experience, volunteer experience (community, leadership), awards, computer/tech skills, additional training, contributions (articles, posters). There are many academic CV resources out there!

**Basic Eligibility:** Completion of Bachelors in Psychology; GPA 3.0 (Research), 3.7 (Clinical); OPQ Requirement classes (Clinical); Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) for some programs in General/Psychology; Experience in research and clinical settings.

**Other:** Will vary by institution. Mostly fill-in-the-blanks and attachment portals:

- Official transcripts (CEGEP, Undergraduate, student exchange)
- International transcript: Commissioner of Oath or explanation of grading scheme
- Other documents: Writing sample (Honour's thesis, paper), list of courses, diversity statement

**Read about each program on their website and reach out to the program directors directly if you have questions!**

### **Tips for a stellar application!**

1. Start early!! Look for labs (summer), contact potential supervisors, work on your statement. DEADLINES VARY BY UNIVERSITY.
2. Go through many edits of your application.
3. Ask your supervisor and peers to review - is this application true to how others view you?
4. Email the university department(s) if you are unsure.
5. Organization is key. Make an Excel sheet with all your program information!
6. Fully consider your options before applying.
7. Note the cost of each application is usually minimum \$100 so invest only in programs you would truly attend considering location, etc.
8. Use the resources available to you.
9. Submit 24h early if you can (avoid technological difficulties).
10. Use action-oriented words and showcase your individual qualities.
11. Prepare for Plan B (gap year, job opportunities, certificate programs).

**After submitting your application, TAKE A BREAK, RELAX, AND CELEBRATE THIS ACHIEVEMENT!**

Wait for good news and consider emailing potential supervisors. Requests for interviews usually happen in Winter (Jan-March) in-person or online.