**Application Instructions, Admission Process, Rights, and Consent**

**(Updated 12/11/2024)**

**Program Admission Process**

A major goal of this program is retention and graduation of students within the prescribed five years. This is best accomplished by selecting applicants who have the educational foundation, motivation, and personality characteristics required to successfully complete an intensive and rigorous doctoral program.

Admission to the program is very competitive. Due to accreditation standards, a limited number of slots are available each year. Please note that solely meeting the minimal application standards does not guarantee admission into the program. Invitations to be interviewed by the graduate faculty are extended to applicants that pass the initial screening process, which is conducted by the entire graduate faculty. Shortly after the interview process is complete, the interviewed applicants will be notified about the status of their application.

**Minimum Requirements for Admission**

1. The minimum requirement for admission is a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally-accredited institution with at least 24 semester hours of psychology coursework in domains such as abnormal, developmental, experimental or research methods, learning or cognition, personality, psychophysiology, statistics, and social psychology.
2. JSU’s Graduate School requires a minimum GPA of 3.00 (4-point scale), which should be reflective of the applicant’s most recent degree. The applicant must provide official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work sent from institutions directly to the Director of Clinical Training.
3. The applicant must provide an official copy of GRE test scores\* (sent from ETS directly to the university). The program does not use specific GRE cut-off scores in the admissions process; however, submission of GRE scores is part of the application process. The GRE subject test in Psychology is accepted but not required. GRE scores older than five years are not accepted. **\*GRE scores are waived for the current 2024 admission cycle.**
4. Submission of the program application, curriculum vita, GRE scores\*, and letters of recommendation are required. **\*GRE scores are waived for the current 2024 admission cycle.**
5. A total of three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess the applicant’s academic and professional potential must be uploaded to the Graduate Admissions portal (<https://mygradschool.jsums.edu/default.asp>). A minimum of two recommendation letters must be written by faculty members or faculty mentors familiar with your academic performance; the third letter may be written by a qualified individual who has supervised any previous clinical or research work. No more than four letters of recommendation will be accepted.
6. An acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) must be submitted, if applicable.

**Ethical Issues**

Throughout the screening, interview, and evaluation phases of this process, all admissions data (i.e., applicant files, other publicly available documents, and interview data) are evaluated based on APA’s Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (APA, 2010).

**Evaluation Domains**

The graduate faulty will evaluate each prospective doctoral applicant utilizing the following criteria, at a minimum:

1. Academic aptitude for doctoral-level studies;
2. Understanding & appreciation of diversity issues;
3. Understanding & appreciation of the program’s requirements;
4. Professional and training experiences in a clinical setting;
5. Past academic performance;
6. Research experience (i.e., publication, symposia, poster presentation, etc.);
7. Characterological suitability to perform as a clinician;
8. Goodness of fit with program goals;
9. Verbal communication, writing and interpersonal skills;
10. Professional demeanor, and;
11. Additional clarification of issues observed in the application materials, if necessary.

**Notice Regarding Background Checks**

Criminal background checks are not currently required as part of the admission process to this program. However, various agencies that provide practicum, externship, and pre-doctoral internship training opportunities typically require a criminal background check prior to placement. These agencies are external to the University and may set or revise placement policies at any time. Because the program curriculum includes providing clinical services, a background check with negative findings could result in a student’s dismissal from the program.

**Immunization Requirements**

All students admitted to Jackson State University are required to submit proof of having received two immunization shots for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) in order to complete registration for classes.

If an applicant has already been admitted and plans to attend the University as a first-time student (undergraduate, graduate or transfer), he/she must submit a copy of the required immunization record to the University Health Center prior to registration for courses.

Students who have been admitted but do not submit the required immunization verification will be unable to complete registration for classes in the school’s computer enrollment system. Please see further immunization information at the link provided. You can get more information at: <https://www.jsums.edu/healthservices/immunization-requirements/>

**Privacy Rights**

All applicants have certain privacy rights defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. You can get more information at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

**Graduate Admissions**

All application materials must be uploaded by January 15th of each year (Fall admission only) to the Graduate Admission portal (<https://mygradschool.jsums.edu/default.asp>).

**Applicant Consent**

*“I have read the information noted above and hereby agree to participate in the admissions screening, evaluation, interview, and selection process.”*

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Print Name:

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Signature: Date: