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

**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 (about 7) are available each year. Please note that simply 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 univeristy). The program does not use specific GRE cut-off scores in the admissions process, however, submission of GRE scores are 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.
4. Submission of the program application, curriculum vita, GRE scores, and letters of recommendation.
5. A minimum of three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess the applicant’s academic and professional potential must be submitted directly to the graduate faculty. Two letters should be written by faculty members or faculty mentors that can attest to your academic performance and ability to perform as a student in a doctoral level program. The third letter may be written by qualified individuals who have supervised any previous clinical or research work. Please do not submit more than four letters of recommendation.
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 the 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.

**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>

**Applicant Consent**

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

Print Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_