Villanova University – M.S. Program in Psychology
Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s) about admissions requirements

Please note that information about applying to the psychology M.S. program can be found on the Office of Graduate Studies web site and on the Psychology Department M.S. Program web page.

These are answers to F.A.Q.s about the Psychology M.S. program. If you don’t find an answer to your question in any of these places, don’t hesitate to ask. Email gradinformation@villanova.edu or call the Office of Graduate Studies (610) 519-7090 if you have questions about the online application system. Email psychologyinformation@villanova.edu or call the Psychology Department at (610) 519-4720 if you have questions that are about the psychology M.S. program or psychology department.

1. **What should be included in the Personal Statement? How long should it be?** The Personal Statement allows us to get to know you beyond your grades and GRE scores; what interests you, where have you been and where do you hope to go as it relates to psychological science. Most importantly, you should provide information about your educational goals in applying to our program. Along the same lines, we want to know about your interests in psychology. Please note that this does not necessarily mean that you have to identify specific faculty members with whom you are interested in working and there is no need to “force” a description of your interests to fit particular research programs in our department. If your interests are focused such that there are specific faculty members whose research is part of the motivation for applying to our program, by all means tell us about that. However, many students come to M.S. programs (rather than directly to Ph.D. program) because their interests are not yet focused on a specific research area and many of our best students enter the program knowing that they are interested in psychological research, but not knowing what specific research area they want to pursue. The important thing is to provide an accurate description of your interests and goals, regardless of how broadly or narrowly focused they are. We are very interested in knowing about research experiences that you have had as a psychology student or in psychology-related activities. We are also interested in other aspects of your history and experiences that are relevant to your decision to continue your education in psychology. Your statement is also important as a sample of your writing ability and style. Helpful Personal Statements tend to be about two or three pages long. There is no particular length requirement, but statements longer than about five pages are not recommended unless your situation is very unusual.

2. **What about the Psychology GRE Subject Test?** The GRE General Test (Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing) is required and it is an important part of the application. The Subject Test (Psychology) is not required. We do consider the Psychology Subject test score if you take it and ETS provides it along with your other scores. It is useful information as part of an application when we are unfamiliar with an applicant’s undergraduate institution (e.g., a small school on the West Coast or outside of the U.S.) or when an applicant’s academic background is
unusual with respect to the psychology course work. However, it is not required under any circumstances.

3. *Can I include a resume or c.v. (curriculum vitae)? Can I include a writing sample?* Yes. The online application system will allow you to include additional materials that are not required. Resumes and writing samples are among the items that can be helpful for evaluating your application.

4. *Do you interview candidates for admission?* On-campus interviews are not a necessary or typical part of our admission process. We invite all candidates accepted for admission to visit our department at the time they are admitted and meet with one or two faculty members as well as a small group of current students in the program. If you are interested in visiting before applying or during the admissions process, the program director will be happy to arrange a meeting with you either in person or by phone. In addition, we encourage you to consider attending a [Graduate Open House](#) or one of the other [events sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies](#).