

UIC SOCIAL & PERSONALITY (S&P) PHD APPLICATION FAQs

Is the GRE required? No! And applications without the GRE will receive the same consideration as those with the GRE.

Can I apply to work with multiple faculty members? While all graduate students at UIC need to have one primary advisor, we strongly encourage students to collaborate with other faculty! If your research interests are at the intersection of multiple faculty members, we are happy to discuss informal co-advisor situations.

Should I contact faculty in advance of submitting my application? You never have to reach out to faculty members before submitting your application. All applications will be closely reviewed, whether or not you had any correspondence before the deadline! Some faculty members in our department meet with students before applications are submitted while others do not, so do not worry if you don't receive a response.

What is the funding situation at UIC? Most UIC graduate students are funded through teaching assistantships each semester (research assistantships are sometimes available as well). Students can request either a 50% appointment or a 67% appointment for their assistantship each semester, which come with different levels of funding ([current rates are available here](#)). As long as you are enrolled in an assistantship each semester, tuition is paid for by UIC. Faculty will also work closely with graduate students to identify fellowship and other funding opportunities to apply to!

Is there summer funding at UIC? Unfortunately summer funding for graduate students is not guaranteed. This is a great question to ask individual faculty members, as some have summer funding available for their students.

Are international students eligible for funding at UIC? International students are eligible for the same teaching and research Assistantships as students who are US citizens, up to a maximum appointment of 50% of their time during the semester (whereas US citizens can have a maximum appointment of 67% of their time).

Are undocumented students eligible for funding at UIC? We strongly encourage undocumented students to apply to our program! Students with DACA status are eligible for the same funding opportunities as documented students. Undocumented students without DACA status may still be eligible for funding, but unfortunately the funding situation is more complicated. Please feel free to reach out to any of our faculty about this, and we'll talk to you about your options.

What kind of quantitative training / support will I get at UIC? Everyone takes a 1 year statistics series, but we also offer 3 advanced courses: Mixed-effects Modeling, Structural Equation Modeling, and Data Science. From day 1, you will learn to program in R and we also have a Statistics and Method Clinic that meets weekly to answer questions on design, statistics, and code related issues.

Are you open to students with career goals outside of academia? Yes, our faculty will support you in whatever your career goals are, whether it is to get a job in academia, work in industry, work in the policy or non-profit world, etc.

How many courses are PhD students required to take? All students in the social & personality area will take four core courses (Attitudes and Social Cognition, Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes, Personality, Research Methods in Social Psychology) and two elective courses, and two required courses in statistics (Research Methods and Design I & II). You will also attend a weekly research seminar featuring both internal and external speakers.

How long is the program? Most students take around 6 years to complete the program, although it is possible to finish in 5 years.

What are the key milestones in the PhD program? Students typically complete a Master's thesis in their second or third year and a preliminary exam by the end of their third year. At this point they are advanced to PhD candidacy. The next step is completing a dissertation prospectus in the fourth year, and then defending the dissertation in the fifth or sixth year. This is an example 5 year timeline:

Year 1: Research Apprenticeship

- PSCH 591: MA or related research
- Statistics, department, and major courses
- First-year project report at end of 2nd semester

Year 2: MA Defense

- PSCH 598: MA Prospectus by 3rd semester
- Major and minor courses, declare minor (if opting to complete)
- Defend MA Thesis by end of 4th semester

Year 3: Preliminary Exam

- PSCH 596: preliminary dissertation research
- Finish courses, plan dissertation
- Complete Preliminary Exam by end of 6th semester

Year 4: PhD Prospectus

- PSCH 599
- Conduct dissertation research
- Complete PhD Prospectus by end of 8th semester

Year 5: PhD Defense

- PSCH 599
- Complete and defend PhD