

# Graduate School Admission Criteria: What Undergraduates Need to Know to be Competitive for Psychology Graduate Programs

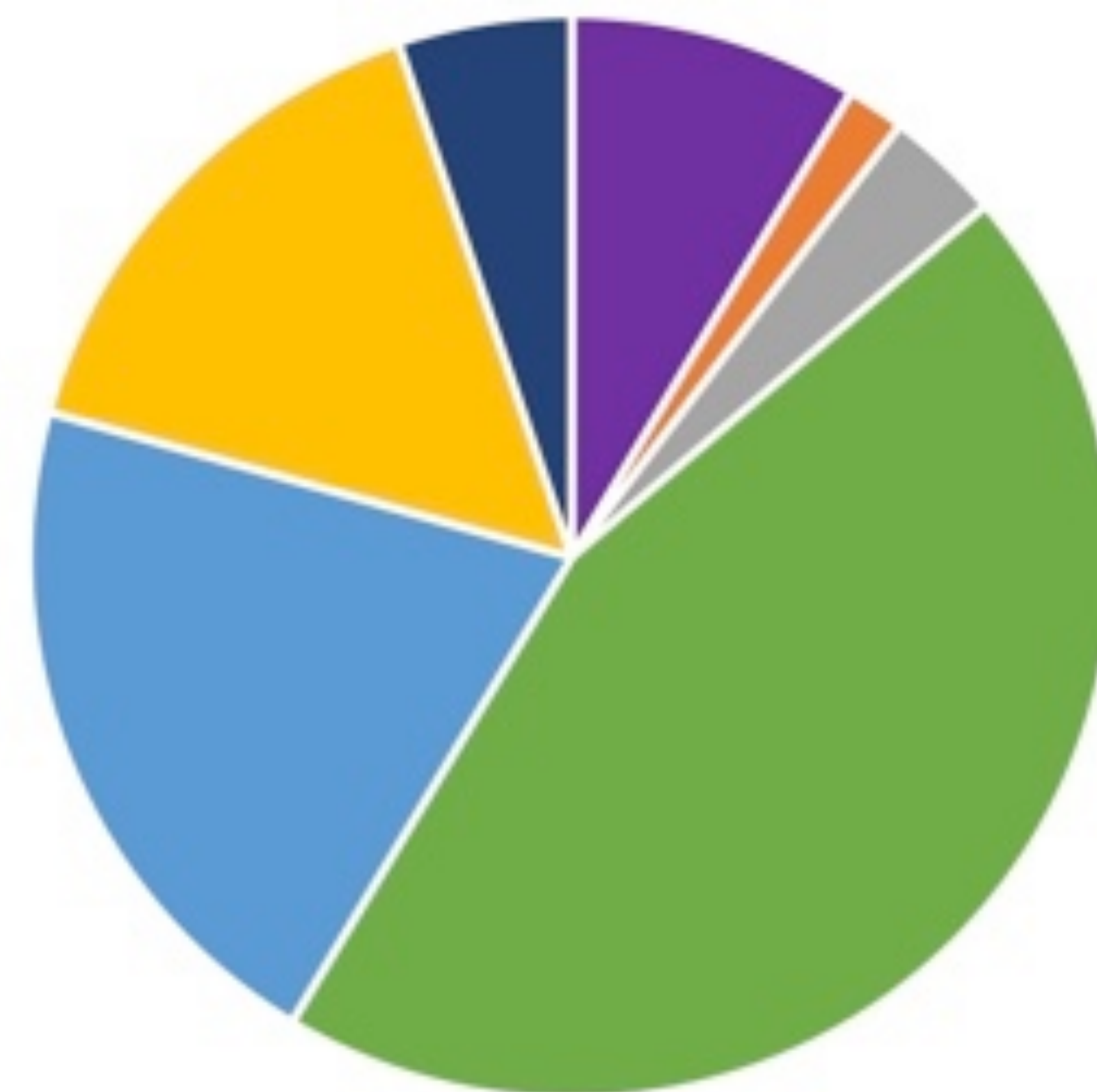
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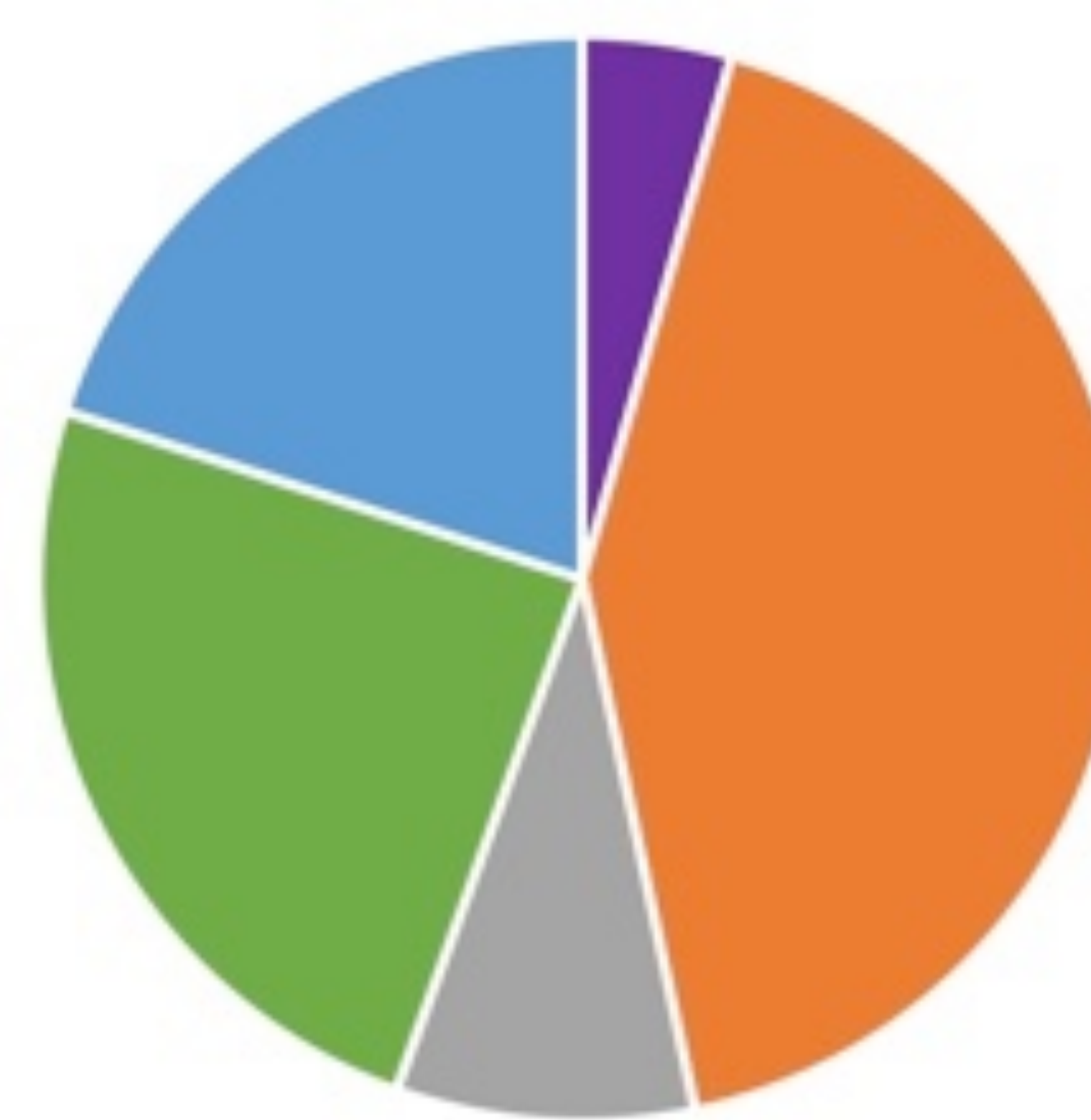
## Introduction

- Getting into psychology graduate programs is competitive but graduate level education gives students more career opportunities than a bachelor's degree alone (Landrum, 2010).
- Little research has been done on what qualifications graduate programs are looking for in applicants.
- This study hopes to provide evidence-based information to help undergraduate students prepare for the graduate school application process.

Master's Programs



PhD Programs



- Strong Letters of Recommendation
- Above Average GRE
- Exceptional Personal Statement
- Life Experience
- 6+ Months Research Experience
- Above Average GPA
- Applicable Work Experience

## Methods

- Admissions decision-makers from PhD and master's degree programs in the field of psychology and closely related fields were invited to participate.
- ANOVA, Chi Square and Regression analyses were run to determine the relationship between PhD and Master's programs and applicant qualifications.

## Conclusions

- Significant differences were found between master's and PhD programs preferred applicant qualifications.
- Master's programs tend to focus on GPA, with most programs requiring 3.0-3.25.
- PhD programs tend to focus on research experience, with more than one year of research experience being typical for accepted applicants.
- 49% of programs stated that GRE scores do not impact admission decisions.

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