First, if your goal is a career as a therapist, counselor, licensed clinician, consider applying to another program. This MA program is research oriented and offers NO clinical training. Getting this MA will not save you any time in the long run. Consider a clinical PhD, clinical MA, counseling, clinical social work, or a PsyD program**. If you do not want to do research, then this program isn’t a good fit for you.** We do require research throughout the MA training and a research-based thesis. If you have interests in clinical psychology and want to conduct research in an area relevant to clinical issues, we might be able to do that.

GRE scores and GPA are important. In general, we look for GRE scores >= 50% and GPAs >= 3.0. Sometimes lower scores are accepted when they are counterbalanced by other accomplishments, letters of recommendation, specialized training, skills or research experience.

There are several things you can do to find a faculty member who will agree to serve as your advisor.

If you are a UNCC student, try taking part in research conducted by several labs in areas that interest you. You can do this by taking PSYC 3806 (independent studies) or as a volunteer. Do a good job as an undergraduate research assistant, then discuss with that faculty member whether they would accept you as an MA student. Doing an Honors research project is another way to do this.

If you aren’t doing your undergraduate work at UNCC, engage in research with a faculty member at your institution in an area related to what you’d like to pursue at UNCC. A strong letter of recommendation from your research supervisor will help your chances.

When you are ready to contact faculty to ask if they would be interested in supervising your MA research, first read several of their recent publications, then email them to begin a conversation about your research interests, whether your interests are a good fit with the faculty member, and explore their interest in taking you as an MA student. Contact several different people.

Your personal statement (required for the MA application) is important. In it you should explain your career goals, research interests and experiences, identify several faculty members whose research interests match yours, and explain why you would be a good fit in their labs. Faculty read the statements and will partially base their decisions on your knowledge of research, recommendations, test scores and GPA.

If you have more questions, you are welcome to contact the program director.