



Careers in Psychology

Psychologists study animal and human behavior and related mental, physiological and social processes in an attempt to understand the causes of behavior. They also apply knowledge already attained to the prevention and solution of both individual and social problems. The Psychology Department offers a wide variety of courses in psychology, including abnormal behavior; learning and cognition; physiological, industrial, social, and developmental psychology; personality; research methods and statistics. Theory and research in these areas are used by experimental, clinical, counseling, educational, and organizational psychologists.

Undergraduates do not specialize but are exposed to all areas of the field. To be a professional psychologist, a student must obtain at least a master's degree in the field. Most areas of study, especially clinical psychology, are becoming very competitive and often require five years or more to obtain a doctorate.

A variety of jobs is open to those with bachelor's degrees. Possibilities exist in academic, industrial and government laboratories, in personnel and related work in business and industry, some types of counseling, job analysis, corrections and social service agencies. Because psychology provides a comprehensive understanding of human behavior, the scientific background and conceptual abilities of graduates are appealing to a variety of employers. In addition, job opportunities exist for those who can use computers effectively in working on problems whose solutions require psychological knowledge and training (e.g., data processing concerned with the development and evaluation of psychological action and treatment programs).

Sample Job Titles

Bachelor's Degree/Entry Level	Further Education/Experience Often Required
Personnel Assistant	Clinical Psychologist
Clergy Person	Occupational Therapist
Probation/Parole Officer	Rehabilitation Counselor
Child Care Worker	Career Counselor
Activities Coordinator	Social Worker
Social Services Caseworker	School Counselor
Personnel Assistant	School Psychologist
Caseworker	Day Care Center Director
Youth Counselor	K – 12 Teacher
Rehabilitation Worker	Professor
Industrial Relations Coordinator	Counseling Psychologist
Market Research Analyst	Industrial Psychologist
Salesperson	Experimental Psychology Researcher
Employment Recruiter	Pharmacology Researcher
Consumer Researcher	Attorney
Affirmative Action Officer	Psychiatric Social Worker
Community Organizer	Psychotherapist
Media Director	Employment Counselor
Technical Writer	Consumer Psychologist
Health Services Administrator	Sport Psychologist
Job Analyst	Business Administrator
Training Specialist	College Student Affairs Administrator

The Psychology Major's Skills and Abilities

<p>Interpersonal Relations Counseling Analyzing/modifying behavior Motivating Perceiving and understanding individual differences Fostering group dynamics Exhibiting empathy toward others Identifying and understanding needs</p>	<p>Communication Influencing and persuading people/groups Informing/explaining ideas Mediating/negotiating conflicts Writing clearly Presenting information effectively</p>
<p>Research Observing people/data/things Framing a research question Developing ideas and theories Gathering information Clarifying goals/problems Organizing and analyzing data Summarizing results Synthesizing conclusions</p>	<p>Analysis Defining problem areas Creating a system to analyze data Offering new perspectives Developing new solutions for recurring problems Evaluating theory and evidence Comparing/contrasting ideas and information</p>

Enhancing Your Employability

Participate in internships, field experience placements, faculty-student research teams, and volunteer service in settings of interest to you. Sample undergraduate field experiences have been in social service agencies, Woodland Park Zoo, senior care facilities, and school settings.

Develop an interest in your psychology major. Talk with other students about your classes and attend scholarly events and conferences related to psychology. Become active in Psi Chi or the Psychology Club. Consult with a faculty advisor about your classes and career plans. Develop a resumé and keep it updated. Volunteer for service at the university and in the community. Develop good study habits to learn about your field and earn good grades in your classes. Get to know a few professors so that they will be able to write an informed letter of recommendation for you. Do things that are consistent with being a student very interested in psychology.

Some Employers of Psychology Majors

Private Practice	Mental Health Agencies	Community Agencies
Rehabilitation Agencies	Business And Industry	Correctional Facilities
Schools	Senior Citizens Centers	Colleges/Universities
United Way Agencies	Nonprofit Organizations	Hospitals
Professional Associations	Employment Agencies	Zoos
Market Research Firms	Retail Stores and Wholesalers	Manufacturers
Insurance Companies	Realtors	Social Service Providers
Private Schools		
<p>State and Federal Government Especially Departments of Health and Human Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Justice, and Veterans Administration; psychiatric hospitals, centers for people with developmental disabilities, and probation and parole services.</p>		
<p>Large Corporations Especially in personnel, labor relations, sales, management, research, data analysis, customer service, media relations, and public relations divisions</p>		

Other Sources of Information

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy - www.aamft.org

American Board of Forensic Psychology - www.abfp.com/

American Counseling Association - www.counseling.org

American Mental Health Counselors Association - www.amhca.org

American Occupational Therapy Association - www.aota.org

American Psychological Association - www.apa.org

(The APA Careers Booklet is at <http://www.apa.org/students/brochure/>)

Encyclopedia of Psychology - www.psychology.org/links/Career/

Federal Jobs Digest - jobsfed.com

Goodworks Directory (Non-Profit) - www.essential.org/goodworks/

Human Resources - www.jobs4hr.com

Human Resources Jobs Page - www.nationjob.com/hr

Jobs in Human Services - www.OpportunityNOCS.org

MentalHealth.Net - www.mentalhelp.net

Nonprofit Career Network - www.nonprofitcareer.com

Online Psychology Career Center - www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm

Psych Web - www.psychwww.com/

Social Service Jobs - www.socialservice.com

Social Work and Social Services Jobs Online - gwbweb.wustl.edu/jobs/index.html

The Riley Guide - www.rileyguide.com

Visit the CWU Psychology web site at www.cwu.edu/~psych



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