Introduction

Psychology is the study of human and animal behavior and related mental, physiological and social processes in an attempt to understand the dynamics of behavior. Psychology gives you a strong background in liberal arts that allow you to find a job working with any age group in any setting. Some of the related job skills are interpersonal skills, competence, problem-solving, and being a good listener. Psychology majors are employed in organizations such as social services, human resources, hospitals, correction facilities, secondary schools, high schools, and colleges. Depending on the field of study, additional schooling may be required. Occupations in the social field such as social worker or guidance counselor will require a Masters degree. Clinical psychologists and behavioral psychologists require a doctorate degree. Clinical programs require approximately five additional years of school.

Functional Skill Set for Psychology Majors:

- Effectively explain ideas.
- Ability to communicate and present ideas & information.
- Ability to analyze and interpret information and ideas.
- Ability to accurately identify and evaluate records of past events, ideas and facts.
- Decision making.
- Interviewing and collecting information from people and communicating it to others.
- Broad background of general knowledge.
- Proficiency for accuracy and detail.
- Ability to concentrate for long periods of time.
- Engage in ethical practice
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Interviewing techniques
- Good listener
- Able to promote healthy relationships
- Understanding of group dynamics
### Related Career Titles for Psychology Majors

- Account Executive
- Activity Leader
- Admissions Counselor
- Advertising Manager
- Art Therapist
- Assistant Account Executive
- Career Planning Professional
- Child Psychologist
- College Student Affairs
- Community and Social Service Worker
- Community Relations Director
- Community Relations Rep
- Copywriter
- Corporate Merchandising Mgr.
- Correctional Caseworker
- Corrections Officer
- Cottage Parent
- Counselor Alcohol/Drug
- Counselor: Career/Vocational
- Counselor: Guidance/School
- Creative Director
- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Customer Service
- Customs/Immigration Officer
- Employee Assistant Director
- Employment Agency Counselor
- Ergonomist
- Expressive Therapist
- Financial Advisor
- Financial Aid Director
- Food and Beverage Manager
- Health Club Manager
- Health Educator
- Hospice Coordinator
- Hotel Management
- Hotel Manager
- Human Resource Administrator
- Human Resources Personnel
- Insurance (Sales & Claims Rep.)
- International Student Advisor
- Job Developer
- Junior Market Analyst
- Labor Relations Manager
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Market Research
- Market Research Analyst
- Marketing/Sales Manager
- Media Buyer
- Media Planner
- Mental Health Coordinator
- Minority Group & Race Relations
- Motivational Researcher
- Music Therapist
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Operations Manager
- Personnel Assistant
- Personnel Interviewer
- Personnel Manager
- Physical Therapist
- Press Liaison
- Prisoner Classification Interviewer
- Probation Officer
- Professional Employment Recruiter
- Program Developer
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Public Health Statistician
- Public Opinion Surveyor
- Public Relations
- Recreation Specialist
- Regulatory Administrator
- Sales Representative
- Social Service Administrator
- Social Worker
- Sociologist
• Statistician Analyst
• Teacher
• Technical Writer/Communicator
• Television/Media Research

• Training & Development Professional
• Wage/Benefits Analyst
• Youth Corrections Officer

Some Organizations that Typically Employ Psychology Majors:

Adoption/Child Care Agencies
Business and Industry
Colleges, Educational Institutions
Community Shelters
Consulting Firms
Day Care Centers
Department of Justice
Dept of Defense
Dept of Health & Human Services
Employee Assistance Programs
Group Homes
Hospitals & Clinics
Insurance Companies
Magazines, Newspapers, Periodicals
Market Research Departments
Mental Health Organizations
Non-Profit Organizations
Nursing Homes
Office of Personnel Management
Personnel Departments
Prisons & Correctional Institutions
Private Practice
Professional/Technical Journals
Public Health Service
Public Relations Firms
Public Schools
Recreation Departments
Research Institutions
Science Research Laboratories
Scouts
Social Security Administration
Social Service Agencies
Test Development Corporations
U.S. Postal Service
Veterans Administration
Start a Strategic Plan

Obtain essential practical experience related to your area of interest, such as counseling, advocacy, or administration.
Find part-time or summer jobs, e.g., camp counselor, resident hall advisor.
Plan internship or practicum placements for academic credit.
Get volunteer experiences, e.g., hotline, Big Brother/Sister, Special Olympics, psychiatric hospital, service fraternity/sorority.
Pursue excellent academic record.
Become fluent in foreign language spoken by multi-cultural clients.
Become familiar with government hiring procedures.
Acquire knowledge of community problems and government resources.
Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills.
Work with a professor on his/her research project.
Supplement curriculum with business courses, or a minor which will add breadth to background.
Develop strong writing and speaking skills.
Develop strong background in math/statistics.
Obtain graduate degree or doctorate for advancement and to specialize in an area.

Professional Organizations and Associations for Psychology Majors:

American Counseling Association
5999 Stevenson Avenue
Alexandria, VA  22304-3300
http://www.counseling.org/

Association for Women in Psychology
PO Box 11474
Portland, OR  97211
http://www.awpsych.org

International Assn. of Counselors and Therapists
10195 Bonita Beach Rd. SE
Suite 2142
Bonita Springs, FL  34135
http://www.inact.org

American Psychological Association
750 1st St. NE
Washington DC  20002-4242
http://www.apa.org

Association of Black Psychologists
PO Box 55999
Washington DC  20040-5999
http://www.abpsi.org

National Institute of Mental Health http://www.nimh.nih.gov

American Psychological Association http://www.apa.org

Social Psychology Network http://www.socialpsychology.org/

American Psychological Society http://www.psychologicalscience.org/

Revised 11.30.10
# PSYCHOLOGY
What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUMAN SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>Federal government, including Departments of: Health and Human Services, Veterans Administration, VA Hospitals</td>
<td>Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs such as camp counselor, tutor, or resident hall advisor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Care:</td>
<td>State government, including Departments of: Human Services, Mental Health &amp; Mental Retardation, Community mental health centers, State psychiatric hospitals, Facilities for mentally impaired, Justice, Probation and parole</td>
<td>Complete an internship for academic credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Local government</td>
<td>Gain experience through volunteering with organizations such as crisis hotlines, Big Brother or Sister, Special Olympics, service fraternities or sororities, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychotherapy</td>
<td>Senior citizens' centers</td>
<td>Many entry-level helping positions require one year of related experience. Volunteer experience and internships can typically fulfill this requirement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>United Way agencies</td>
<td>Learn to work well with different types of people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
<td>Social service/nonprofit organizations</td>
<td>Develop strong communication skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Health and Wellness</td>
<td>Religiously-affiliated service organizations</td>
<td>Cultivate the desire to help others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Work</td>
<td>Hospitals/healthcare providers</td>
<td>Become fluent in a foreign language to serve clients who may not speak English.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Therapy</td>
<td>Private psychiatric facilities</td>
<td>Be willing to relocate for increased job opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Therapy</td>
<td>Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)</td>
<td>Become familiar with government hiring procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration:</strong></td>
<td>College and university counseling centers</td>
<td>Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td>Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for positions involving substantive counseling or psychotherapy or for advancement into administrative/supervisory positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td></td>
<td>Many specialties exist at the graduate level, for example school counseling, mental health counseling, counseling psychology, etc. Pursue particular degrees depending upon interests and career goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Relations</td>
<td></td>
<td>See General Information on the last page for more details on this topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain an excellent academic record and seek experiences valued by graduate programs.</td>
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**AREAS**

**RESEARCH**
- Social Research
- Market Research
- Data Analysis

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
- Student Affairs
- Administration
- Training
- Adult Learning

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Employment and Recruitment
- Labor Relations
- Compensation and Benefits
- Organizational Development
- Training

**EMPLOYERS**

**RESEARCH**
- Federal, state and local government agencies
- National headquarters of non-profit organizations
- Universities and colleges
- Market research firms
- Market research departments of consumer goods and manufacturing firms
- Consulting firms

**EDUCATION**
- Public and private K-12 schools
- Colleges and universities
- Community instruction offered by government or social service agencies e.g. GED classes, life skills, parenting, etc.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Large companies
- Government agencies
- Staffing and employment services
- Large non-profit organizations including hospitals and educational institutions

**STRATEGIES**

**RESEARCH**
- Work with a professor on his or her research project.
- Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills. Take additional math and statistics courses.
- Obtain a graduate degree for greater opportunities.
- Obtain related experience. Get a part-time or summer field service position with a market research firm.
- Get involved in the American Marketing Association.
- Earn a graduate degree in psychology, statistics or marketing for the greatest number of opportunities.

**EDUCATION**
- Obtain a teaching certificate for public school positions.
- Multiple certification will increase marketability. Seek guidance from the education department of your college.
- Earn a doctoral degree for post-secondary teaching.
- Secure strong personal recommendations. Volunteer or work as a tutor.
- Gain experience working with children or adolescents. Acquire related experience on campus as a resident hall advisor, orientation leader, admissions tour guide, or peer mentor.
- Develop strong communication skills and learn to speak well in front of a group.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Gain relevant experience in human resources by completing an internship.
- Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business courses.
- Seek leadership positions in student organizations.
- Develop strong computer skills.
- Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in human resources to attain higher level positions.
Develop career goals and seek relevant experiences to prepare for those goals.
Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business or communication courses.
Obtain relevant experience through internships or part-time jobs.
Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store.
Demonstrate a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as "assistant manager."
Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles.
Learn to work well with different types of people. Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.
For sales, develop the ability to work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment.
Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.
When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."
Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork, etc.

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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Industry</td>
<td>Service providers</td>
<td>Develop career goals and seek relevant experiences to prepare for those goals.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wholesalers</td>
<td>Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business or communication courses.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Obtain relevant experience through internships or part-time jobs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Retail stores including:</td>
<td>Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department stores</td>
<td>Demonstrate a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as &quot;assistant manager.&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialty stores</td>
<td>Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discount stores</td>
<td>Learn to work well with different types of people. Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Super retailers</td>
<td>For sales, develop the ability to work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Online retailers</td>
<td>Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call centers</td>
<td>When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring &quot;any major.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial institutions</td>
<td>Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insurance companies</td>
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<td>Real estate companies</td>
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<td>Property management firms</td>
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<td>Apartment complexes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public relations departments of large businesses or nonprofit organizations</td>
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</table>
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Psychology provides a broad, liberal arts background.
- Some students may choose to study psychology because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop desirable skills through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences. Some skills valued most by employers include: communication, interpersonal, leadership, teamwork, and computer skills.
- Other students may major in psychology because they want to work in a related field. Many entry-level helping positions are available, however the amount of direct client contact is limited for those who have a bachelor's degree. Students may wish to pursue graduate education in psychology, social work, counseling, college student personnel, or other related fields to increase opportunities and earning potential. Research career fields to learn what type of degree (master's or doctoral) and subject area are most appropriate. The following list provides some examples:

  **Master's Degree**
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker
  - Professional Counselor
  - Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors
  - Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors
  - Rehabilitation Counselors
  - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists

  **Doctoral Degree**
  - Counseling Psychologist
  - Licensed Clinical Psychologist
  - Experimental Psychologist
  - School Psychologist
  - Sport Psychologist
  - Industrial/Organizational Psychologist

- For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer or work opportunities. Assist a faculty member with his or her research.