

# PSYCHOLOGY

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### HUMAN SERVICES

##### **Direct Care:**

Counseling  
Psychotherapy  
Art Therapy  
Music Therapy  
Case Management  
Mental Health Services  
Physical Health and Wellness  
Crisis Work  
Rehabilitation Services  
Performance Enhancement  
Testing/Assessment  
Law Enforcement

##### **Administration:**

Advocacy  
Programming  
Community Relations  
Management  
Development/Fund Raising  
Grant Writing

Federal government including Departments of:  
Health and Human Services  
Justice  
Veterans Affairs  
State government including:  
Departments of Human Services  
Departments of Mental Health  
Departments of Justice  
Community mental health centers  
State psychiatric hospitals  
Facilities for individuals with intellectual impairments  
Boards of probation and parole  
Local government  
Senior citizens' centers  
Nursing homes  
Social service/nonprofit organizations  
Religiously-affiliated service organizations  
Hospitals/healthcare providers  
Private psychiatric facilities  
Outpatient clinics  
Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)  
College and university counseling centers and career centers  
Pain clinics  
Rehabilitation facilities  
Testing centers  
Private practice

Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs such as camp counselor, tutor, or resident hall advisor.  
Complete an internship for academic credit.  
Gain experience through volunteering with organizations such as crisis hotlines, Big Brother or Sister, Special Olympics, service groups, etc.  
Many entry-level helping positions require one year of related experience. Volunteer experience and internships can typically fulfill this requirement.  
Learn to work well with different types of people.  
Develop strong communication skills.  
Cultivate the desire to help others.  
Earn a minor in a specialized field of interest, e.g. child and family studies or sociology.  
Take courses to build valuable counseling-related skills, e.g. techniques of counseling.  
Become fluent in a foreign language to serve clients who may not speak English.  
Be willing to relocate for increased job opportunities.  
Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.  
Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for positions involving substantive counseling or psychotherapy or for advancement into administrative/supervisory positions.  
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. See General Information on the last page for more details on this topic.  
Pursue graduate training or certification programs to establish test administration and interpretation qualification.  
Maintain an excellent academic record and seek experiences valued by graduate programs.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### RESEARCH

Social Research  
Market Research  
Data Analysis  
Testing/Test Development  
Experimental Psychology

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  
Private research organizations  
Consulting firms

Pursue research experience by working on faculty projects through independent study classes, as a student employee, or through other departmental programs.  
Take additional math and statistics courses to develop strong quantitative and statistical skills.  
Obtain related experience through part-time or summer jobs or internships with a market research firm.  
Get involved in the American Marketing Association.  
Earn a graduate degree in experimental psychology, educational psychology, statistics, or marketing depending upon interest area.

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### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Adult Learning/Community Instruction, e.g. GED classes, life skills, parenting, etc.  
Information/Library Science  
Higher Education Administration and Student Support Services including:  
Admissions  
Financial Aid  
Academic Advising  
Development  
Alumni Affairs  
International Education and Study Abroad  
Career Services  
Residence Life  
Student Activities and Greek Life  
Orientation  
Leadership  
Multicultural Affairs  
Recreational Sports

Public and private K-12 schools  
Colleges and universities  
Government agencies  
Federal Trio programs, e.g. Upward Bound, Talent Search  
Nonprofit organizations, e.g. Project Grad  
College prep programs

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 in psychology for post-secondary teaching.  
Pursue graduate training in information science for library positions.  
Get a master's degree in college student personnel, higher education administration for student affairs or administrative positions.  
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong personal recommendations.  
Gain experience working with children, adolescents, or college students through tutoring or other volunteer positions.  
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.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Employment and Recruitment  
Selection  
Labor Relations  
Compensation and Benefits  
Organizational Development  
Training

Large companies  
Government agencies  
Staffing and employment services  
Large non-profit organizations  
Hospitals  
Educational institutions

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.

**BUSINESS**

Sales  
Customer Service  
Public Relations  
Marketing  
Advertising  
Product Design  
Management  
Insurance:  
    Claims Management  
    Underwriting  
Real Estate:  
    Sales  
    Property Management

Service providers  
Wholesalers  
Manufacturers  
Retail stores including:  
    Department stores  
    Specialty stores  
    Discount stores  
    Super retailers  
    Online retailers  
Call centers  
Financial institutions  
Insurance companies  
Real estate companies  
Property management firms  
Apartment complexes  
Public relations departments of large companies or nonprofit organizations

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 part-time jobs or internships.  
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.

## **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, educational specialist, 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

### **Educational Specialist**

School Psychologist

### **Doctoral Degree**

Counseling Psychologist  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Experimental Psychologist  
Sport Psychologist  
Industrial/Organizational Psychologist  
Social Psychologist  
Developmental Psychologist  
Forensic Psychologist  
Health 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.
- Many applied positions require licensure. This can take an additional one to three years of supervised experience after earning a graduate degree depending upon state requirements. Graduate programs in clinical work should be accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) in order to ensure a smooth transition towards licensure. Graduate programs in counseling should be accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).