# PSYCHOLOGY
What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HUMAN SERVICES</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
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<td><strong>Direct Care:</strong></td>
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<td>Counseling</td>
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<td>Applied behavior analysis</td>
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<td>Art therapy</td>
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<td>Case management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental health services</td>
<td>Departments of Justice</td>
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<td>Physical health and wellness</td>
<td>Community mental health centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis work</td>
<td>State psychiatric hospitals</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation services (e.g., speech,</td>
<td>Facilities for individuals with intellectual</td>
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<td>physical, vocational therapies)</td>
<td>impairments</td>
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<td>Performance enhancement</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>Religiously-affiliated service organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community relations</td>
<td>Hospitals/Healthcare providers</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Private psychiatric facilities</td>
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<td>Development/Fundraising</td>
<td>Outpatient clinics</td>
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<td>Grant writing</td>
<td>Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)</td>
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<td>College and university counseling centers and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>career centers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pain clinics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation facilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Testing centers</td>
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<td>Private practice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## EMPLOYERS

- 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

## STRATEGIES

- 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 & family studies, sociology, or political science).
- 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.
- Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.
- Earn a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for positions involving substantive counseling or psychotherapy or for advancement into administrative/supervisory positions. See General Information for more details.
- Pursue graduate degrees to enter rehabilitation fields such as speech-language pathology, physical therapy, and vocational rehabilitation. See What Can I Do With This Major Audiology and Speech Pathology? and What Can I Do With This Major Healthcare Sciences? for additional details.
- Pursue graduate training or certification programs to establish test administration and interpretation qualification.
- Maintain an excellent academic record.
### AREAS

#### RESEARCH
- Social research
- Market research
- Data analysis
- Testing/Test development
- Experimental psychology
- Neuroscience
- Industrial and Organizational (I/O) Psychology

#### EMPLOYERS
- Federal, state, and local government agencies (e.g., National Institute of Health)
- 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

#### STRATEGIES
- Pursue research experience by working on faculty projects through independent study classes, as a student employee, as a volunteer in their lab, or through other departmental programs.
- Take additional math and statistics courses to develop strong quantitative and statistical skills.
- Take additional science courses or consider a minor in Neuroscience.
- Obtain related experience through part-time, 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, I/O psychology, statistics, or marketing.

### 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

#### EMPLOYERS
- 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)

#### STRATEGIES
- Obtain a teaching certificate for public school positions. Multiple certifications 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.
- Earn a master's in Counseling with a specialty in career development if interested in career services.
- Seek 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Resources</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment and recruitment</td>
<td>Large companies</td>
<td>Gain relevant experience in human resources by completing an internship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection</td>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor relations</td>
<td>Staffing and employment services</td>
<td>Seek leadership positions in student organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compensation and benefits</td>
<td>Large non-profit organizations</td>
<td>Develop strong computer skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational development</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in human resources to attain higher level positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Educational institutions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Business

| Sales | Service providers | Develop career goals and seek relevant experiences to prepare for those goals. |
| Customer service | Wholesalers | Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business or communication courses. |
| Public relations | Manufacturers | Obtain relevant experience through part-time jobs or internships. |
| Marketing | Retail stores including: | Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store. Develop a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as "assistant manager." |
| Advertising | Department stores | Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles. |
| Product design | Specialty stores | Learn to work well with different types of people. Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction. |
| Management | Discount stores | For sales, develop the ability to work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment. |
| Insurance: | Super retailers | Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions. |
| Claims management | Online retailers | When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major." |
| Underwriting | Call centers | Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, teamwork, etc. |
| Real estate: | Financial institutions | |
| Sales | Insurance companies | |
| Property management | Real estate companies | |
| | Property management firms | |
| | Apartment complexes | |
| | Public relations departments of large companies or non-profit organizations | |
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: 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 only 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 for your interests and desired population.

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
- Neuroscience Psychologist
- Psychiatry (M.D.) *

- For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high-grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, gain experience through volunteer or work opportunities, and assist a faculty member with 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) 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).
- Research the availability of certifications for specialties like the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst if interested in working with people with disabilities.
- Note (*): If Psychiatry is a career interest take additional science courses for admission to medical school; see your school's pre-health advisor.