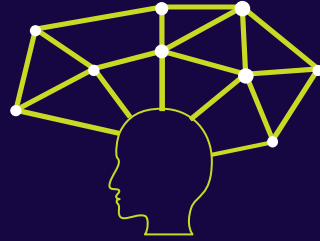


<https://psychology.fas.harvard.edu/pprep>

Life choices: PhD, Masters, Post-Bac Position?

SHIRLEY WANG & OSIRIS RANKIN



SO YOU'RE CONSIDERING A CAREER IN
PSYCHOLOGY...

NOW WHAT?

OPTIONS AFTER COLLEGE



RA/Lab Manager

Get more research experience in a lab at a university or hospital



Clinical Position

Work directly with patients providing clinical care



Industry Job

Work in data science, policy, education, or another related field



Master's Program

Take more classes and do research in a Master's program



Straight to PhD

Apply for PhD programs straight from undergrad

HOW DO YOU DECIDE?



Do you feel ready to commit to a 5+ year research program?

Do you have the requisite experiences (previous research experience)?



**if YES: then apply for
PhD programs!**



**if NO: what information
or experiences do you
need?**

WHAT EXPERIENCES?



There are many options!

- Lab manager
- RA position
- Master's program

Considerations

- Funding
- Research vs classes
- International students



RESEARCH VS CLINICAL/APPLIED

Try to get experience with both!

- Note that in most cases, clinical/work experiences do not substitute for research experience when applying for PhDs
- However, this can vary by school and lab/PI



RESEARCH VS CLINICAL/APPLIED

If clinical:

- Consider if you want to do research
- Clinical psychology PhDs provide research and clinical training, but are still typically research programs
- Many other programs exist with a primary clinical focus (e.g., MSW, PsyD) but these are typically not fully funded



RESEARCH VS CLINICAL/APPLIED

For everyone:

- The field is incorporating more methods from data science and computing, so having these skills and perspectives *can* be helpful
- Gaining experiences in the settings or with the populations that you wish to study can be great, especially if it is tied to research





Thank you!

Questions?

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