

So you're a psychology major.

JOBS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS



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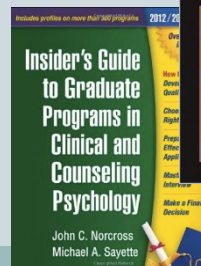
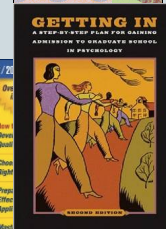
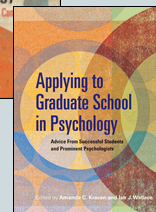
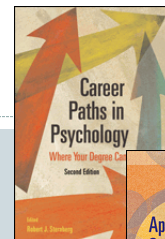


Helpful resources

SEE THIS WEBSITE:

<http://clinicalpsychgradschool.org/>

- Career Paths in Psychology: Where Your Degree Can Take You, Second Edition
- Applying to Graduate School in Psychology: Advice From Successful Students and Prominent Psychologists
- Getting In: A Step-By-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology, 2nd Edition
- Insiders' guide to graduate programs in clinical and counseling psychology



Entry-level

A "psychologist" has a doctoral degree in psychology

But: Many **entry-level jobs** are open to those with a bachelor's degree in psychology

- Typically, draw on psych coursework
- Human services (counseling, social work)
- Business
- Criminal justice (probation officer, corrections officer)
- Health and recreation
- Education

Business Area

(A minor in business would be helpful)

advertising trainee	insurance agent	personnel worker/ administrator
administrative assistant	job analyst	public information officer
advertising agent	loan officer	public relations
airline reservations clerk	management trainee	sales representative
claims specialist	marketing representative	small business owner
customer relations	marketing researcher	store manager
employee counselor	media buyer	staff training and development
employment counselor	occupational analyst	warehouse manager

Mental Health/Social Services Area

(A minor in family and child studies, justice studies, health and aging studies, or sociology would be helpful)

behavior analyst	director of volunteer services	probation/parole officer
case worker	drug/substance abuse counselor	program manager
child protection worker	employment counselor	rehabilitation advisor
corrections officer	family service worker	residential youth counselor
counselor aide	group home coordinator	social service director
day care center supervisor	mental retardation unit manager	veterans' advisor

Other Positions

(Various other minors combined with psychology)

affirmative action officer	community relations officer	hospital patient service representative
child care worker	congressional aide	newspaper reporter
college admissions counselor	director of alumni relations (college)	park and recreation director
college admissions recruiter	director of fund raising (college)	statistical assistant
community recreation worker	fast food restaurant manager	technical writer

Helpful Job Resource

- Once you have an idea of some specific job titles, consult *Occupational Outlook Handbook* for more info
 - Available in library
 - Job descriptions, education and training requirements for jobs, salaries, and employment outlooks for 250 jobs.

MASTER'S- AND DOCTORAL-LEVEL CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND RELATED AREAS

Psychology

- Research
- Applied
 - Clinical
 - Counseling
 - Forensic
 - Health
 - Industrial/organization
 - Sports

Education

- Agency/community counseling
- School
 - Educational psych
 - School counseling
 - School psych
- Social Work
- Art Therapy
- Music Therapy

Areas of Specialization in Psychology

- Clinical
- Counseling
- Developmental
- Educational
- Experimental
- Forensic
- Health
- Human factors
- Industrial/organizational
- Physiological
- School
- Social

How to choose and get in to Graduate School

Deciding to pursue a graduate degree

- At the master's (M.A.) and doctoral (Ph.D.) level, education becomes increasingly specialized
- To make the correct decision about education, be clear about your career goals.
- Be *sure* that the degree you pursue will prepare you for the career you want. (The wrong degree program is a waste of time and money).

Graduate School options

- If you want to help people with problems (eg, "counseling"), you are not limited to careers that require graduate degrees *in psychology*
- There are many pathways into counseling:
MA, MS, MEd, MSW, PhD, PsyD, EdD
- Insurance reimbursement rates are similar for psychologists, clinical social workers, and LMFTs

Social worker (MSW)

- Takes coursework in the diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems
- Works in many settings: hospitals, schools, community mental health centers, ...
- Can obtain a *license* in clinical social work at the master's level in all states.
- More info: *Summary Information on Master of Social Work Programs* published by the **National Association of Social Workers**

MSW, LMFT, School

- If you are specifically interested in treating **children**: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Southern, Central, UCONN -- have programs
- More info:
<http://www.southernct.edu/grad/graduateprograms/>

MFT

- **Graduates with an MFT degree work at:**
 - Mid-State Hospital, Children's Psychiatric Emergency Services of Saint Raphael's Hospital, Clifford Beers Clinic, Norwalk Hospital - Oncology Services, family service agencies, youth service agencies, private practice; organizations where families receive treatment.
- **Can go on to doctoral studies.**
- **State licensure requires: post-graduate practice year in non-profit agency, supervised by LMFT**
- **State licensure exam (the "L" in LMFT)**

Education graduate programs

- **Education**
 - MA (usually no thesis)
 - Focus on educational testing
- **Counselor education**
 - Supervised experiences in psychological disorders
- **School psychology**
 - Psycho-educational testing
 - Counseling, behavioral modification
- ***Graduate Study in Psychology* (APA book) lists APA-accredited programs in school psych, ed psych, and counseling psych that offer ed degrees (in addition to psych programs)**

School Psychology

- **Employed in educational settings**
- Consult with school personnel and parents about learning, social and behavior problems
- Help teachers/parents to understand development, learning needs, and behavior
- Assess academic skills, social skills, personality and emotional development, eligibility for special education
- Solve conflicts and problems: provide counseling, social skills training, crisis intervention, behavior management, and other interventions
- Conduct research on academic program efficacy, behavior management procedures, and other school services; generate new knowledge to improve learning and mental health adjustment

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY, RELATED AREAS

Psychology

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 - Counseling
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Education

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 - School psych
- Social Work
- Art Therapy
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PhD	vs.	MA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher salary • More responsibility/status • More independence • Harder to get into • Longer completion time (4-6 years) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational advantages over BA • Easier to get into • Shorter completion time (1-2 years)

How do I choose?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine <i>interests/goals</i> Why am I pursuing grad school in psychology? 2. Examine <i>admissions standards</i> How hard is it to get <i>in</i>? 3. Examine <i>graduation requirements</i> How hard is it to <i>graduate</i>?

What does a PhD in Psychology involve?

- **Specialize in a subfield of psychology**
 - Clinical, developmental, social, personality, neuropsychology, health, etc.
- **Lots of research methods and statistics**
- **Research-based MA thesis**
- **Research-based PhD thesis**

Why so much research?

- **If research is not your cup of tea, programs in education and social work are a better fit**
- **What are alternatives to traditional clinical PhD & strategies for being admitted to PhD programs in clinical psychology?**
 - **SEE THIS ARTICLE:**
 - Halgin, R. P. (1986). Advising undergraduates who wish to become clinicians. *Teaching of Psychology*, 13(1), pp. 7-12.

Finding psychology programs

- APA publication, *Graduate Study in Psychology*
- List of subfields in psychology
 - Lists institutions that offer degrees in that subfield
 - You should:
 - Identify schools; then review details of admission requirements, deadlines, degree requirements, program goals, faculty/student statistics, tuition costs, and financial aid.

Getting in to psychology graduate school

Critical

- GPA
- GRE
- Letters of rec saying why you are a good fit
- Posters, presentations, publications
- Research experience
- **Research interests that match prospective advisor**

Also helpful

- Research focus as undergraduate
- Clinical experience
- Courses, independent studies, and volunteer services within this career path