



## *Major to Career Guide*

# Psychology

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

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### *Introduction*

Psychology is the study of human and animal behavior. It seeks to understand and explain both normal and abnormal behavior, mental ability, perception, development, and individual differences. In addition, psychological study explores human emotions, thoughts, and motives. The major sub-branches within psychology are: educational, social, psychometrics, developmental, comparative, the psychology of personality, abnormal, applied, differential, statistics, general, counseling, and clinical psychology. Unlike psychiatry, psychology is a non-medical occupation. Psychologists may be divided roughly into two large, partly overlapping groups. Academic or research psychologists do scholarly research on principles of human and animal behavior. Professional or practicing psychologists apply what is known about enhancement of human welfare.

### *What are some potential occupations?*

Biofeedback or Psychiatric Technician  
College Student Personnel Administrator  
Counselor  
Career Advisor  
Chemical Dependency  
Geriatric Counselor  
Guidance Counselor  
Health Services  
Rehabilitation Counselor  
Residence Counselor  
Vocational Counselor  
Director of Public Services  
Employee Relations Specialist  
Employee Trainer  
Human Resources Specialist  
Interviewer  
Job Analyst  
Manpower Specialist  
Mental Health Worker  
Neuropsychology Professional  
Police Officer  
Probation/Parole Officer  
Professor  
Psychologist  
Clinical Therapist  
Development Researcher  
Educational Psychologist  
Industrial Engineer  
Experimental Psychologist  
Psychometric Assistant  
Manager

### *What are some desirable personal qualities?*

- Intelligence, a logical mind, and a flair for science and mathematics
- Ability to work well both alone and with others
- Good speaking and writing skills
- Emotional stability, maturity, and compassion
- Ability to motivate others
- Patience and persistence

### *What are some of the job tasks?*

- Study human behavior, collect data, and formulate hypothesis
- Investigate physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior
- Provide mental health services
- Interview clients and examine human interactions
- Help mentally or emotionally disturbed individuals adjust to life
- Design and implement behavior modification programs
- Conduct training programs
- Administer and interpret diagnostic tests
- Provide individual, family, and group psychotherapy

## *Additional information*

Experience acquired through internships or cooperative education programs can prove valuable in obtaining full-time employment after graduation.

Psychologists who want to enter independent practice must meet certification or licensing requirements.

A doctorate is generally required for employment as a psychologist.

Persons having a master's degree can administer and interpret tests as a psychological assistant.

A bachelor's degree in psychology qualifies a graduate to assist psychologists and other professionals in mental health agencies, vocational rehabilitation centers, and correctional facilities.

## *Who hires?*

- Business and Industrial Agencies
- Courts and Correctional Facilities
- Educational Institutions
- Government Agencies
- Hospital Clinics
- Human Service Organizations
- Marketing Research Agencies
- Mental Health Organizations
- National Non-Profit Organizations
- Personnel Departments
- Research Institutes
- Social Service Agencies
- Test Development Corporations or Agencies

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