

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the study of human and animal behavior and the conditions that affect human behavior. It seeks to understand and explain both normal and abnormal behavior, mental ability, perception, development and individual differences. In addition, psychology explores human emotions, thoughts, and motives.

TYPICAL SKILLS

Skills:

Ability to interpret/explain psychological research
Understanding of human development/behavior
Ability to observe/analyze
Ability to organize & interpret data communication
Ability to mediate/negotiate
Knowledge of human development information
Deal effectively with people
Ability to promote healthy relationships

Sensitivity to others
Ability to evaluate personal problems
Ability to make decisions
Proficiency in interpersonal communication
Interpersonal communication
Observe, analyze and interpret
Understand group dynamics

TYPICAL CAREERS

The following are actual job titles of people who have graduated with an undergraduate degree in Psychology although some of these positions may require education beyond a bachelors.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR/COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Advises students at all levels on selection of courses and majors. Sometimes involves career counseling. Sometimes requires certification.

ADVERTISING MEDIA PLANNER

Determines the most cost-effective means of reaching a target market via print and broadcast media. Researches demographics of different media outlets, and analyzes demographic and budgetary aspects of advertising proposals.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVE

Researches, analyzes, and monitors staffing policies in order to achieve affirmative action goals. Conducts outreach activities in order to identify and attract qualified women and minority applicants for company openings. Employers in all fields.

AIRLINES CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Executes reservations, ticketing, telephone and direct ticket sales, passenger ticketing and boarding. Also responds to complaints and requests for information.

AIRLINES FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Provides in-flight service to passengers and implements emergency procedures as necessary.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Produces educational programs, social events, and special tours for alumni; writes alumni publications; coordinates fund raising and reunion activities. Works for college and university alumni affairs offices.

CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT COUNSELOR

Assists individuals in setting and implementing career and job-search goals, teaches decision-making and job-search skills, networks among employers for interviewing opportunities and internships, develops related library resources. Employers include private firms and universities and colleges.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICER

Recruits and selects prospective students, creates promotional materials, makes presentations on and off campus, sets admissions criteria, reviews applications, and communicates with applicants.

COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Creates and implements programs to raise funds for a college or university through corporate and alumni contributions.

CONSULTING OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

Furnishes support services for consultants. Coordinates travel arrangements, proofreads and edits reports, develops charts and graphs to illustrate findings, maintains and operates audiovisual equipment for presentations, organizes resource libraries, etc. Works for consulting firms.

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Recruits, trains, assigns, and directs volunteers to provide services to an employer's constituency or clientele. Acts as a liaison with professional staff to coordinate volunteer assignments, organizes programs for training and recognition of volunteers, carries out related administrative duties. Works primarily for service organizations such as hospitals, social service agencies, and cultural institutions.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Maintains order in a penal facility, enforces rules and regulations, and supplements counseling provided by psychology professionals.

CORRESPONDENT/STRINGER

Writes freelance reports for one or more publications. Usually has specific knowledge of the subject or geographic area covered. Works as an independent contractor.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Handles customer relations, usually through direct contact with customers or clients. Researches and responds to complaints and informational inquiries, seeking both to meet the customer's needs and promote the image and reputation of the employer. Works for manufacturers, retailers, service industries, and social service organizations.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER

Creates new educational methods and materials; assesses the effectiveness of existing methods and materials. Employers include school districts, private schools, manufacturers of educational equipment, educational publishers, and national testing organizations.

ELIGIBILITY WORKER

Screens prospective beneficiaries of a government program to determine their eligibility for the program's services. Works for federal, state, and local government agencies.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN/PARAMEDIC

Provides emergency medical treatment and transportation. Works for hospitals, ambulance services, police or fire departments. Requires three to five months of specialized training.

ENERGY COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS

Handles community relations and liaison re: work with six major types of energy: oil and gas, coal, hydroelectric, nuclear, solar, and "alternatives" such as wind, tide, and geothermal. Works for producers, government agencies, consulting firms, and lobbying groups.

ENERGY RESEARCHER

Researches a variety of issues involved in working with six major types of energy: oil and gas, coal, hydroelectric, nuclear, solar, and "alternatives" such as wind, tide, and geothermal. Works for producers, government agencies, consulting firms, and lobbying groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Conducts community relations and liaison regarding environmental issues in fields such as: earth, marine, and atmospheric sciences; mining; forestry; public works; and parks, wildlife, and water management. Works for government agencies, consulting firms, citizen's groups, research laboratories, scientific associations, and industry.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

Plans employee social activities, organizes new employee orientation sessions, assists in publishing employee newsletters. Reports to Employee Relations Specialist or Manager. Works for employers in all fields.

FREELANCE WRITER

Writes for publications on an assignment basis for a negotiated fee, usually after submittal of a query letter proposing ideas for articles or stories. Typically works as an independent contractor.

HOTEL HOSPITALITY REPRESENTATIVE

Solicits business and programs on behalf of a hotel or conference center, coordinates the catering and support services necessary to accommodate the particular needs of a client or program.

HOUSING AND STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

Administers housing services and produces special programs to promote positive interaction on campus. Works for universities and colleges.

HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITER

Interviews applicants on college campuses, at employment fairs, at trade and professional meetings, and in the office. Promotes effective relations with colleges, universities, and other institutions that supply prospective employees. Positions exist in many settings, including search firms.

HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING SPECIALIST

Trains employees or coordinates training programs designed to teach general information or specific task-oriented skills pertinent to the work for which employees are hired. Works for employers of all kinds.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN

Writes institutional and policy histories; researches and reports on current issues, long-range trends; edits public records, manages archives. Works for executive, legislative, and judicial

agencies, international institutions, military services, cultural agencies, planning agencies, public archives and libraries, private industries and corporations.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Researches and analyzes a diversity of geopolitical issues on behalf of the government. Employed by intelligence services such as the F.B.I., the C.I.A., the National Security Agency, and military intelligence agencies. Work requires testing and security clearance.

LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCHER

Assists labor relations specialists with detailed research required for contract negotiations. Prepares advisory reports on union-management agreements. Works for unions, unionized employers, and government arbitrators.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Performs a variety of enforcement and investigative activities. May involve computer analyses. Works for federal, state, and local police departments and for special enforcement agencies such as the FBI, tobacco and firearms, drug enforcement, border patrol, etc.

LEGISLATIVE AIDE

Performs research, writing, and liaison functions for a state or U.S. senator or congressional representative or for a municipal officeholder. Positions typically secured through direct contact with office holder.

LOBBYING ORGANIZER

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives. Employers include special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

LOBBYING RESEARCHER

Identifies information that can be used to support the positions and the efforts of lobbyists. Involves library research, attendance at conferences and committee meetings, and writing of reports. Employers include a diversity of special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

MARKET RESEARCH INTERVIEWER

Conducts interviews to acquire statistical data pertaining to potential buying behavior, consumer attitudes, and other marketing issues. Works for market research firms, advertising agencies, manufacturers, and retailers.

MARKET RESEARCH PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Under direction of an Account Executive, coordinates the efforts of interviewers, tabulators, and coders in conducting a market research study. Employers include market research firms, advertising agencies, manufacturers, and retailers.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Assists occupational therapists in teaching patients who, because of injury or illness, require training to accomplish day-to-day tasks. Works in hospitals, social service agencies, nursing homes, and rehabilitation clinics.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Assists in all aspects of Human Resources management, including record keeping, interviewing and hiring, resolving wage and salary issues, and administering career development, job training, and employee benefit programs. Works for employers of all kinds.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WORKER

Assists in planning, fund raising, research, writing issue statements, canvassing, and assessing voter attitudes. Works for candidates or interest groups during political election campaigns. Frequently leads to permanent positions with political organizations or officeholders.

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Teaches basic academic and social skills to young children. Often teaches a variety of subjects to a single class or grade level. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

PSYCHIATRIST

Diagnose, treat, and help prevent disorders of the mind.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Diagnose or evaluate mental and emotional disorders of individuals through observation, interview, and psychological tests, and formulate and administer programs of treatment.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Creates, implements, and coordinates a service to a community. May involve fund raising for a charity, overseeing a scholarship fund, operating a service-oriented program or facility. Employers include nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, and the public affairs sections of commercial businesses.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Assesses the public relations needs of an organization, and plans and implements programs to meet them. Distinct from advertising. Makes public appearances, produces special events, and prepares press releases and packets to generate favorable free publicity. Works for professional agencies, for businesses of all kinds, and for nonprofit and social service organizations.

REPORTER/STAFF WRITER

Works and writes for a publication on a regular basis. Usually works under pressure of deadlines on general assignments before specializing in a particular area. In addition to newspapers and magazines, employers include corporations and agencies with in-house newsletters.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Assists researchers in collecting and analyzing data, observing and interviewing people, surveying appropriate literature, and writing reports in order to advise or inform a client. Works for research and consulting firms.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Helps students to gain self-understanding, solve school-related problems, make personal and career programs. Administers and interprets standardized tests; works with school staff, students, and parents to identify and evaluate learning problems. Employees include elementary and secondary schools, technical institutes, and colleges. Typically requires course work in counseling and a credential.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Instructs high school and junior high school students in specialized subject areas. Most secondary school teachers teach several courses in a single subject area. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT

Helps social workers to furnish counseling and referral services to individuals and families. Handles intake, maintains files, interacts with referral agencies, and documents cases. Works for government agencies, hospitals, and social workers in private practice.

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Does sociological analysis; studies policy issues; prepares analytical reports; coordinates interdisciplinary studies. Works for "think tanks", universities, public research agencies.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Develops and administers special education programs. Settings (eg., churches, social service agencies, youth organizations) and topics (e.g., therapeutic arts-and-crafts, drug-abuse education, athletic programs) vary widely.

SPECIAL PROGRAM TEACHERS

Instructs students enrolled in special education programs. Settings (e.g., churches, social service agencies) and topics (e.g., vocational training, preschool Head Start, drug-abuse prevention) vary widely.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES ADVISOR

Administers various activities for college students, usually extracurricular. Positions include fraternity/sorority advisor, disciplinary advisor, foreign student advisor, student publications advisor, and so forth.

SURVEY ASSISTANT

Assists in the design of survey interviews and questionnaires, the interviewing of subjects, the management of interviewers, collection and analysis of data, and documentation and presentation of findings. Works for government agencies and private surveying and market research organizations.

TRAVEL AGENT

Counsels clients regarding travel plans and activities. Makes hotel, airline, train, car, and other arrangements for those traveling for business or pleasure. Typically works for an agency. Paid under commission agreements with airlines, hotels, etc.

TRAVEL CONSULTANT

Provides travel advice and information to people planning trips. Helps travelers to resolve questions and problems that come up on a trip. Works for travel clubs, state and local tourist bureaus, resorts, travel associations, credit card companies, and tour groups.

URBAN PLANNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Under the supervision of a city or regional planner, conducts research into the economic, environmental, and social consequences of development in order to support strategies for appropriate growth and renovation of rural, suburban, or urban areas. Typically works for a government agency. May work for a consulting or architectural firm

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELOR

Assists physically, emotionally, or mentally disabled individuals to develop and carry out vocational and educational plans. Cooperates with other professionals such as physicians, placement counselors, and educators. Works for state and local rehabilitation agencies, hospitals, schools for the handicapped, and the Veterans Administration. Typically requires course work in vocational rehabilitation and a credential.

HIRING ORGANIZATIONS

Adoption/Child Care Agencies

Mental Health Associations

Churches/Religious Groups
Clinics/Hospitals
Colleges/Universities
Community Organizations
Courts/Correctional Institutions
Educational Periodicals
Government Agencies
Medical Schools

Nursing Homes
Orphanages
Personnel Departments
Research Firms
Social Service Agencies
Test Development Corporations
Volunteer Agencies
Youth Organizations

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5500
1-800-347-2721
www.apa.org
email: public.affairs@apa.org

Association of Black Psychologists
PO Box 55999
Washington, DC 20040-5999
(202) 722-0808
www.abpsi.org
email: Admin@ABPsi.org

Association for the Advancement of Psychology
P.O. Box 38129
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8129
1-800-869-6595 fax: (719) 520-0375
www.aapnet.org
email: KRivard@AAPNet.org

WEBSITES: JOB SEARCH

School psychology job center http://www.schoolpsychology.net/p_jobs.html

Psych job listings in geocities <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/5353/classes/psychjobs/>

Psych Ed job connect <http://www.psyched.net/>

Social Service.com <http://www.socialservice.com/userlogin.cfm?cfid=760299&cftoken=3282807>

Jobsience.com <http://www.jobpsychology.com/>

FEDERAL JOBS <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Jobs with the US Department of Health & Human Services
<http://www.dhhs.gov/jobs/index.html>

Jobs with the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
<http://www.hud.gov/jobs/index.cfm>

The Corporation for National & Community Service (includes Americorp)
<http://www.nationalservice.org/>

WEBSITES: CAREER INFO

FAQ's for Counseling Psychology "What's the difference between clinical & counseling psychology?"

<http://www.counselingpsychology.net/cpfaq.html#counvsclinical>

Careers in Psychology <http://www.psywww.com/careers/>

Careers in Social Work <https://www.socialworkers.org/students/default.asp>

Careers in School Psychology <http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ediv16/G&O.htm>

Accredited Graduate Programs in Counseling (from CACREP)

<http://www.counseling.org/cacrep/directory.htm>

Requirements for being a School Counselor

http://www.collegeview.com/college/ask_experts/choosing_mj/counsel.html

Student information from the American Counseling Association

<http://www.counseling.org/site/PageServer?pagename=students>

Psychology Careers <http://www.apa.org/students/brochure/>

Information on Federal Service- Jobs & Internships with the Federal Government

http://www.ourpublicservice.org/info-url3739/info-url_list.htm?cat_id=43

A Day in the Life (job profiles) from Get that Gig.com <http://www.getthatgig.com/dayof.html>

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATION WEBSITES

American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org>

American Counseling Association <http://www.counseling.org/site/PageServer>

National Association of Social Workers <http://www.naswdc.org/>

American Psychological Society <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, part of the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), consists of 22 faculty members whose research spans several areas of Psychology including: clinical, cognitive, developmental, neuroscience and perception.

The Department supports one of the largest undergraduate programs at the [University of Louisville](#). The Department offers two undergraduate majors: The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and The Bachelor of Science in Psychology, in addition to a Minor in Psychology.

Over 90 graduate students are currently enrolled in the Department's graduate programs. Training that leads to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree is available in two areas: Clinical Psychology and Experimental Psychology. A Master of Arts in General Psychology is also offered. Undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to work with faculty in state of the art research facilities, many of which are funded by Federal, State and private research grant funds.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS

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