Careers in Psychology

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What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?
Where Do I Start?
Steps

1. **Learn** more about yourself and explore your career interests, and learn about the field of Psychology.

2. **Develop** a personal academic/career development plan and portfolio.

3. **Prepare** for graduate study and/or employment.
Learn about the Subfields of Psychology

- Clinical and Counseling
- School and Educational
- Legal and Forensic
- Health
- Sport
- Biopsychology, Cognitive Neuropsychology
- Industrial, Organizational, Human Factors
- Experimental, Cognitive, Quantitative
- Social and Consumer
- Developmental
- Community
- Cross-Cultural
6 Great Reasons to Earn a Psychology Degree

- Psychology is a broad discipline so you can pursue a specialty area that you are passionate about.
- The job outlook for Psychology majors is good.
- A Psychology degree is a great way to learn more about yourself and others.
- Earning a Psychology degree can allow you to make a difference in peoples’ lives.
- Learn how to record, organize, analyze and interpret data.
- A Psychology degree will prepare you for graduate study.
Where Psychologists Work

- University or 4-year college: 25.9%
- Medical School/Other Academic: 16.3%
- Schools/Other Education: 10.4%
- Independent Practice: 8.1%
- Hospital/Other Health Care Setting: 6.3%
- Government/VA Medical Center: 5.7%
- Business/Non-Profit: 25%

Note: The chart represents employment settings for those with recent doctorates in psychology. Totals amount to 97 percent due to rounding and exclusion of 17 "not specified" responses. Adapted from D. Michaels, J. Kohout, M. Wicherski & B. Hart (2011), *2009 Doctorate Employment Survey* (Table 3) (PDF, 33KB).
Develop Yourself for Success

- Visit your Guidance Counselor/Advisor
- Get to know your teachers/professors
- Visit your Career Planning Office
- Get involved in research
- Seek internships
- Seek study abroad experiences
Get Involved!

- Engage in extracurricular activities
- Engage in volunteer work
- Get work experience
- Get leadership experience
- Take challenging classes (minor)
Develop Your Goals: Choose Your Path?

Work

Graduate School
Prepare for the Next Steps

- Network
- Prepare a resume/vitae
- Solicit references
- Write a cover letter/personal statement
- Complete Applications/Tests
- Prepare for interview
Working with a Bachelor’s Degree

- **Case management**
  - Coordination of services to help meet a patient's health care needs, usually when the patient has a condition requiring multiple services from multiple providers.

- **Rehabilitation specialist**
  - A medical or psychosocial professional who assists patients in recovery from physical injuries or weaknesses, or mental illness
Working with a Bachelor’s Degree

- Therapeutic Support Specialist (TSS)
  - Helping patients with basic, daily needs, teaching life skills, encourage leisure activities, conducting applied therapy sessions and performing related case management tasks.

- Parole and probation officer
  - Work directly with individuals who have been convicted of criminal offenses coordinating activities, responsibilities, and resources.

- Laboratory assistants
  - Assist in lab maintenance, data collection, and data analysis.
Working with a Bachelor’s Degree in Other Areas

- Entry- and mid-level management and administration
- Sales and Marketing research
- Social work
- Other management occupations
- Labor-relations, personnel and training
- Administrative positions
- Real estate, business services and insurance
- Marketing
- Human resources
- Political campaigns or government agencies
Possible Employers in Lehigh Valley Area

- KidsPeace
- Valley Youth House
- Turning Point
- Step-by-Step
- B. Braun Medical
- Lehigh Valley Hospital & Others
- Wells Fargo Bank
- HCR Manor Care
- Luther Crest Home
- Wegman’s
- Small office practitioners
- Colleges
Should You Get an Advanced Degree?

Consider:

- Opening of additional career avenues
  - Your educational and professional goals
  - Possible professional advancement
- Time
- Motivation and Commitment
Advanced Degrees: Issues to Consider

- Which degree?
  - M.A./M.S., Ph.D., Psy.D., M.D.
- Field of Psychology or alternative field
- Title of “Psychologist”
- Licensure and accreditation
## Job Growth in Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008 Employment</th>
<th>2018 Predicted Employment</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical, counseling, and School Psychologists</td>
<td>152,000</td>
<td>170,200</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial-Organizational Psychologists</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologists, all other</td>
<td>15,900</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</table>

Source: [http://diplomaguide.com/eguides/Psychology.html#page/11](http://diplomaguide.com/eguides/Psychology.html#page/11)
## Top 10 Psychology Career Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Counselor</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>$59,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>$47,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics Counselor</td>
<td>$71,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Psychologist</td>
<td>$59,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Psychologist</td>
<td>$79,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Psychologist</td>
<td>$81,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Psychologist</td>
<td>$45,000-$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind.-Org. Psychologist</td>
<td>$97,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Teacher</td>
<td>$47,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Helpful Resources

- APA & APS websites
- Stanovich, K. (2010). How to Think Straight about Psychology (9th ed.)
For a copy of this presentation, go to:

http://www.cedarcrest.edu/ca/academics/psychology/index.shtm
Questions?