




Psychology Careers Night

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Career Prospects with an Undergraduate Degree in Psychology

- The skills acquired through the completion of an undergraduate degree in Psychology are valued in a number of employment settings.
- The entry-level positions that Psychology majors obtain are varied. The majority of positions involve the application of skills acquired through undergraduate training in Psychology.

Examples of Entry-Level Positions Obtained by Psychology Majors

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Addictions counsellor | Mental health worker |
| Administrative assistant | Motivational speaker |
| Advertising trainee | Nursing home worker |
| Child care worker | Personnel manager |
| Corrections officer | Program coordinator |
| Community recreation worker | Program evaluator |
| Counsellor's aide | Psychiatric assistant |
| Cultural diversity consultant | Public health statistician |
| Customs officer | Public opinion interviewer |
| Day care worker | Rehabilitation advisor |
| Director of volunteer services | Research assistant |
| Group home coordinator | Small business owner |
| Hospice coordinator | Statistical assistant |
| Immigration officer | Technical writer |
| Loans officer | Youth counsellor |
| Management trainee | University/college advisor |
| Market research analyst | Vocational counsellor |

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- Resources on career prospects for individuals with an undergraduate degree in psychology include:

DeGalan, J., & Lambert, S. (2006). Great jobs for psychology majors. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.


Morgan, B. L., & Korschgen, A. J. (2008). Majoring in Psychology: Career Options for Psychology Undergraduates (4th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

APA website: <http://psyccareers.apa.org/>.



Career Prospects with a Graduate Degree in Psychology

- Through graduate studies, individuals develop expertise in one or more subdisciplines of psychology.
- An increasing number of individuals are pursuing a terminal master's degree.
- Nevertheless, the greatest range of employment opportunities and highest paid jobs are available to those who have completed a doctoral degree.

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- Individuals who have completed a graduate degree in psychology are typically employed as primary researchers, practitioners, and/or consultants. The most common settings in which they are employed are:

Academic settings (e.g., colleges, universities).

Business and industry (e.g., drug companies, market research companies).

Government (e.g., military settings, federal and provincial governmental agencies).

Hospitals and clinics.

Independent practice (e.g., clinical practice, consulting practice).

Research institutes.

Examples of Positions Obtained by Master's and Doctoral Graduates in Psychology

Clinical psychologist, Back in Motion
Clinical psychologist, Women's and Children's Hospital
Clinical psychologist, private practice
Forensic psychologist, Correctional Services of Canada
Forensic psychologist, East Coast Forensic Psychiatric Hospital
Dean, Adler School of Professional Psychology
Director, St. Paul's Eating Disorders Clinic
Officer, Canadian Security Intelligence Service
Private consultant, physical activity and the work place
Private consultant, statistics and research methodology
Senior Vice President, NRG Market Research Company
Researcher, BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health Researcher,
Centers for Disease Control
Researcher, Canadian Department of Justice
Researcher, Microsoft
Researcher, RAND
Trial consultant
University/college professor

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- Resources on career prospects for individuals with a graduate degree in psychology include:

Kuther, T. L., & Morgan, R. D. (2007). Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World (2nd ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Sternberg, R. J. (Ed.). (2006). Career paths in psychology: Where your degree can take you (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

Super, D. E., & Super, C. M. (2001). Opportunities in Psychology Careers. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.



Getting Into Graduate School

1. High Grades – Aim for at least 80% average in last 2 years
 - Last year average grade of incoming clinical students was 90%
 2. Graduate Records Exam (GRE)
 - Verbal, Analytical and Quantitative - Aim for scores above the 80th percentile
 - Psychology - Aim for scores above the 90th percentile
 3. Reference Letters – from 3 individuals who can comment on your academic ability and qualifications
 - Start Volunteering Now! <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/research/index.psy>
 4. Application
 - Identify the program to which you are applying (clinical vs. experimental) and the faculty with whom you'd like to work
 - Statement of Intent (describes your experience and research interests)
 - Curriculum Vitae (professional resume)
- ❖ External Funding (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, MSFHR) helps **a lot**
 - ❖ Honours Degree best (but not necessary)



Life as a Masters Student

Masters Degree (2 years)

Experimental (Research) vs. Clinical (Therapy)

- Clinical has more requirements
- Courses
 - Experimental 7 courses (at least 2 of which are statistics)
 - Clinical 11 courses (at least 2 of which are statistics)
- Thesis
 - Masters thesis – written document describing research conducted and findings
 - Masters Defense - spoken presentation describing research
- Write grants
- Write manuscripts
- Travel to conferences

Expected Income \$16,000 - \$40,000

Note: upper limit is with multiple funding sources and TA work



Life as a Doctoral Student

PhD (4 years)

Experimental (Research) vs. Clinical (Therapy)

- Clinical has more requirements (summer practicum and year long internship)
- Courses
 - Experimental 4 courses
 - Clinical 6 courses
- Dissertation
 - Proposal – written document and oral presentation describing research plan
 - Dissertation – written document describing research conducted and findings
 - PhD Defense (internal and external)- spoken presentation describing research
- Comprehensive Exams
 - Review Paper, Grant Proposals and/or Oral and Written Examinations
- Write grants
- Write manuscripts
- Travel to conferences

Expected Income \$17,000 - \$60,000

Note: upper limit is with multiple funding sources and TA or Teaching work



Life as a Professor

- Teaching
 - Undergraduate and graduate level courses
- Research (designing and supervising)
 - Supervising Graduate Students
- Administrative Duties
 - Serving on Departmental and University Committees
- Writing
 - Manuscripts, Book Chapters, Grants
- Reviewing grants
- Reviewing manuscripts for publication
- Staying on top of new research in their area

Expected Income \$50,000 – \$100,000+



More Information on Graduate School

- Graduate Guide 2005-2006:
<http://www.cpa.ca/students/cpagraduateguide/>
- “The Complete Guide to Graduate School Admission” by Patricia Keith-Spiegel is an excellent source of information about applying to graduate school
- Dr. Margaret A. Lloyd's *Careers in Psychology* site includes a wealth of information about applying for graduate school
www.psychwww.com/careers/index.htm