So you’re a psychology major.

JOBS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

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PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
UCONN

Helpful resources

SEE THIS WEBSITE:
http://clinicalpsychgradschool.org/

- 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

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### Business Area

(A minor in business would be helpful)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advertising trainee</td>
<td>insurance agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>administrative assistant</td>
<td>administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advertising agent</td>
<td>public information administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airline reservations clerk</td>
<td>job analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>claims specialist</td>
<td>loan officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>customer relations</td>
<td>management job analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employee counselor</td>
<td>marketing researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment counselor</td>
<td>media buyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment counselor</td>
<td>occupational analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment counselor</td>
<td>warehouse manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Mental Health/Social Services Area

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

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

### Other Positions

(Various other minors combined with psychology)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affirmative action officer</td>
<td>community relations officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child care worker</td>
<td>congressional aide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>college admissions counselor</td>
<td>director of alumni relations (college)</td>
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<tr>
<td>college admissions recruiter</td>
<td>director of fund raising (college)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community recreation worker</td>
<td>fast food restaurant manager</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>technical writer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hospital patient service representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>newspaper reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>park and recreation director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>statistical assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 into 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**
- Research
- Applied
  - Clinical
  - Counseling
  - Forensic
  - Health
  - Industrial/organization
  - Sports

**Education**
- Agency/community counseling
- School
  - Educational psych
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- Social Work
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### PhD vs. MA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>MA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Higher salary</td>
<td>• Occupational advantages over BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More responsibility/status</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• More independence</td>
<td>• Easier to get into</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Harder to get into</td>
<td>• Shorter completion time (1-2 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Longer completion time (4-6 years)</td>
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</table>

### How do I choose?

1. **Examine interests/goals**  
   Why am I pursuing grad school in psychology?

2. **Examine admissions standards**  
   How hard is it to get in?

3. **Examine graduation requirements**  
   How hard is it to graduate?
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:
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