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# Psychology

## Careers with a Bachelor's Degree

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### Good References Available at CMC Career Center:

- Morgan, BL & Korschgen, AJ. (2006). *Majoring in Psych? Career Options for Psychology Undergraduates* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed). New York: Pearson.
  - See also this web site for "Careers in Psychology" Advice:
    - <http://teachpsych.org/otrp/resources/resources.php?category=Advising>
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### Overview

- Psychologists study human behavior and mental processes to understand, explain and change people's behavior. Some research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Other psychologists in applied fields counsel and conduct training programs, do market research, or provide mental health services in hospitals, clinics and private settings. The study of psychology is excellent pre-professional training for the fields of law and medicine, and for careers in business, industry and government.

### Careers with a BA in Psychology

- Most psychology majors find employment in a variety of careers and do not continue on to a graduate school.
- Specialized work in various areas of psychology typically requires an M.A. or Ph.D. By standards of the American Psychological Association, a Ph.D. is necessary in order to be called a psychologist and is typically the minimum educational requirement for university/college level institutions, hospitals, or government agencies employing psychologists. Also, most institutions require a psychologist to have completed an approved internship and have up to 1 year of experience. Some clinics and therapeutic institutions may hire well-qualified applicants with M.A.'s.

### What do employers look for in Psychology graduates?

- Edwards & Smith (1988) interviewed employers seeking to hire a person whose duties would include research (not part of the above study), the highest rated skills ***included writing proposals and reports, the ability to identify problems and suggest solutions based on knowledge of human behavior, conducting interviews, and performing statistical analyses.***

Ability to interpret/explain psychological research	Understanding of human development/behavior
Ability to mediate/negotiate	Sensitivity to others
Ability to observe/analyze	Ability to evaluate personal problems
Ability to make decisions	Proficiency in interpersonal communication
Ability to identify problems	Ability to perform statistical analyses
Writing proposals and reports	Ability to conduct interviews

**Skills:**

- To assess what employers want from psychology graduates, a recent survey of business leaders from 3 states (Illinois, Ohio, & Idaho) asked about the relative importance of 88 specific qualities, skills and abilities (Landrum & Harrold, 2003). These potential employers of bachelor's degree psychology graduates rated the items on a 4-point scale ranging from 0 (not at all important) to 3 (extremely important). The 10 most important characteristics and their mean ratings were as follows:

Listening Skills	2.86	Focus on customers/clients	2.78
Ability to work with others as part of a work team	2.84	Interpersonal relationship skills	2.75
Getting along with others	2.83	Adaptability to changing situations	2.75
Desire and ability to learn	2.80	Ability to suggest solutions to problems	2.74
Willingness to learn new, important skills	2.80	Problem solving skills	2.73

**Psychology majors bring a number of special strengths to the workplace.**

- 1) Psychology majors take course work in which they are encouraged to know and appreciate people from a variety of perspectives. Clearly employers value workers who are successful in understanding and relating to others.
- 2) Psychology majors obtain solid preparation in the strategies of scientific research, statistical analysis, and computer use. Such analytical and research skills enable psychology majors to know how to approach and answer a wide range of important questions and problems in everyday life. Again, many employers highly value these abilities.
- 3) Most psychology majors receive extensive practice in oral and written communication, particularly as they prepare and present research reports. Most employers look for applicants with strong speaking and writing skills.
- 4) Please see the list of general job opportunities for graduates with a BA degree in psychology. Students can strengthen their job candidacy by choosing psychology courses that are closely related to their specific career interests. For example, courses in developmental psychology would likely strengthen the application of those intending to provide some form of child or elder care. Courses in organizational or leadership psychology would be important preparation for business.
- 5) Students can also improve their job prospects by taking nonmajor courses that are related to a given career. For example, courses in accounting, marketing, and personnel management may be important for business-related professions. Courses in computer science, public speaking, and foreign language teach skills that are valuable in an even wider range of employment settings.
- 6) Psychology majors may strengthen their applications by involvement in extracurricular activities. Having been a member of a team, having played a leadership role, and having tutored another student strengthen one's job application. Off campus work experiences and internships in areas related to one's chosen field may also prove beneficial.

**References:**

- o Landrum, ER, & Harrold, R. (2003). What employers want from psychology graduates. *Teaching of Psychology*, 30 131-133.
- o Edwards, J & Smith, K. (1988). What skills and knowledge do potential employers value in baccalaureate psychologists? In PJ Woods (Ed.), *Is psychology for them? A guide to undergraduate advising* (pp. 102-111). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- o Aubrecht, I. (2001, Winter). What can you do with a BA in psychology? *Eye on Psi Chi*, 29-31.
- o Lundrum, E. (2001, Fall). I'm getting my bachelor's degree in psychology—What can I do with it? *Eye of Psi Chi*, 22-24.

## Preparing for a Major in Psychology

- **Get Involved in Research!!!!**
  - In possible, become actively involved as an undergraduate research assistant. Search out faculty members who share your research interests!
  - Also, look for summer research internships in laboratories or in companies that are related to your research interests.
  
- **Take advantage of Summer Internships & Programs**
  - ***Almost all summer internships have application dates around February.***
  - CMC offers several summer internships relevant to psych and neuroscience majors
    - For internships and CMC sponsored internships, see p 6 of the *CMC Career Center and Services* guide. The community service internship program is one of the few, if only, internship programs available to freshman. The Kravis Internship is also of particular relevance to Psychology majors.
      - See the Career Services Web site for application information.
        - <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/csc/SponsoredInternships/SponsoredSummerInternshipPrograms.php>
      - Beth Ricca ([bricca@cmc.edu](mailto:bricca@cmc.edu)) is the internship advisor for Psychology.
    - Neuroscience fellowships
      - The 5 C's offer summer internships to conduct research in labs, especially those off the 5 C campus.
      - Dr. Tom Borowski is the head of the Neuroscience program ([tborowski@pitzer.edu](mailto:tborowski@pitzer.edu)) and is the contact person for the Neuroscience fellowships.
  - Other colleges, universities, and institutions offer summer programs tailored to different interests in Psychology and Neuroscience
    - Please see the Psychology Summer Internships handout for a list of possible summer programs and their URLs. (Remember that programs and URLs change frequently so if the listed one does not work, check out the institutions web site for updated information)
  - <http://www.apa.org/science/undergradopps.html>
  - <http://www.psych.utah.edu/srop/>
  - <http://www.rit.edu/~gtfsbi/Symp/cstate4.htm>
  - [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/jobs\\_and\\_training/summer/](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/jobs_and_training/summer/)
  - [www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/](http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/)
  
- **Join Honors Societies, especially Psi Chi, and become involved in the Psych Dept.**
  - Psi Chi is the national honors society in psychology. It holds regular meetings and often schedules trips to mental health facilities as well as local conferences and talks. At CMC, Psi Chi has a web page off the Psychology web page that has membership information as well as important information for how to apply to graduate school, etc. Please contact the faculty Psi Chi advisor or the student who is president of Psi Chi for more information.

## Finding Careers with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

(Edited from Bruce R. Fretz, Ph.D., Psi Chi National President)

- All of this information has been developed especially for psychology students. Much general information about career opportunities and procedures for finding employment is available at the CMC career development office. Please use this as a supplement for such general information.
- For all students studying psychology who wish to enter full-time employment after completing a bachelor's degree, an increasing number of students at the bachelor's degree level have found stimulating and interesting career opportunities in numerous fields, many utilizing their interests and knowledge of human behavior gained through psychology course work. However, the M.A. and Ph.D. remain the only degrees which one can enter professional positions labeled "Psychologist."

### Contents:

- Section 1: Kind of course work students might elect while undergraduates in order to enhance their career opportunities at the bachelor's degree level.
- Section 2: The broad range of career opportunities for psychology students
- Section 3: Pertinent state, federal and government employment opportunities

### Section 1: Elective courses that may increase employability at the B.A./B.S. level

- Faculty and personnel working with career advising and placement of bachelor degree holders suggest that students often need to combine psychology with other courses that lead more directly to employment at the bachelor's degree level. For students interested in maximizing their employment opportunities, those surveyed recommended that students need to take two or more courses in at least one of the following areas: economics, business administration, personnel administration, marketing, consumer education, journalism, speech, communications, English composition (for editing, technical writing), biological and ecological sciences, math/statistics, computer science, sociology, and social work. They also recommended that any opportunities for taking music, art and recreation courses pertinent to therapeutic uses of these media were also valuable.
- Additionally, either within psychology or as available in other departments, students should elect courses which prepare them to use psychological tests, interview techniques, or research design. In some schools such courses are more frequently available for undergraduates in colleges of education than in psychology departments.
- **Even more important may be independent study, research or fieldwork as part of your undergraduate curriculum. Field placements and research assignments often lead directly to job opportunities in similar settings after graduation. Additionally, in such activities a professor or professional psychologist often can refer you to potential employers.**

## Section 2: Where do I look for positions?

- Students often think only of mental hospitals as places for employment for those interested in work related to psychology. Listed below are many types of agencies and settings. In all of these, in various sections of the country, persons with bachelor's degrees have found interesting and challenging positions which utilize their knowledge of psychology.
  1. Community Relations Officer: works either for business or government in promoting good relations with the local community
  2. Affirmative Action Officer: works for recruitment and equal opportunities for minorities; employed by business, industries, schools and government.
  3. Recreation Worker: plans and supervises community recreation facilities. (Increasing number of opportunities available for therapeutic recreation workers, often requiring course work in therapeutic recreation)
  4. Urban Planning Officer: deals with city planning, renewal
  5. Personnel Administrator: works with employee relations, selection, promotions, etc.
  6. Advertising copywriter: researches audience and media, writes text of advertisements
  7. Media Buyer: researches product and audiences to select most effective media for advertising
  8. Health Educator: gives public information about health and disease
  9. Vocational Rehabilitation: counsels persons with handicaps and illnesses in preparation for new vocations (some states require an M. A. degree for this position)
  10. Psychiatric Assistant: administers routine tests, helps with patients under supervision of psychiatrist
  11. Director of Volunteer Service: responsible for volunteers—recruits, supervises, trains, and evaluates volunteers
  12. Public Statistician: collects and interprets data on health and disease and community relations.
  13. Customs Inspector: serves at international borders and airports in investigations and inquiries.
  14. Probation and Parole Officer: persons with psychology backgrounds are often preferred for such positions, especially with adolescent parolees.
  15. Newspaper Reporter: social science, psychological interest areas.
  16. Technical Writer: researches and writes material dealing with social science and psychological knowledge for magazines, newspapers and journals.
  17. Sales Representative: major publishers of psychological books often seek out undergraduates with psychology majors for these positions on college campuses.
  18. Opinion Survey Researcher: does opinion polls and interprets results.
  19. Daycare Center Supervisor: supervises and coordinates activities of preschool children with working parents.
  20. Research Assistant: assists in the collection and analysis of data for major investigations. Positions usually available only in large hospitals, businesses, and government.
  21. Laboratory Assistant: assists in the collection and analysis of data for major investigations. Positions usually available only in large hospitals, businesses, and government.
  22. Scientific Instrument Salesperson: opportunities in sales and development for companies specializing in psychology apparatus.
- For more industries, job titles, and skills associated with Psychology, see APA's Students Considering Careers in Psychology (<http://www.apa.org/students/student1.html?imw=Y>)
- Not listed above are the numerous kinds of "counselor" roles that are available to many students with a bachelor's degree in a variety of social work service and mental agencies. Opportunities of this type are most abundant in the inner city and rural areas. Usually you can find out about such opportunities through contacting your local community service agencies, e.g., halfway programs for alcoholic or drug addicts, former prisoners, former mental hospital inmates, and former institutionalized retardates. For a beginning post bachelor's position these positions can be quite challenging; however, often they do not have much of a future as a career.

## Common Hiring Organizations

### Hiring Organizations:

Adoption/child care agencies	Medical schools
Churches/religious groups	Mental health associations
Clinics/hospitals	Nursing homes
Colleges/universities	Orphanages
Community organizations	Personnel departments
Courts/correctional institution	Research firms
Educational periodicals	Social service agencies
Government agencies	Test development corporations
Volunteer agencies	Youth organizations

### Occupations of Interest to Psychology Majors from the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* by Drew C. Appleby, Ph.D.

The following is a list of 124 occupations that psychology majors can pursue and the urls that will take them to the descriptions of these occupations that appear in the Information Technology Associates online version of the Department of Labor's *Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT)*. Occupations requiring a graduate degree are marked with an \*. I created this list of occupations from the following five sources.

1. Students enrolled in my Orientation to a Major in Psychology class who must identify an occupation in which they have an interest
2. A list of the occupations that IUPUI psychology alumni report they have entered
3. Marky Lloyd's *Careers in Psychology* website ([www.psychwww.com/careers](http://www.psychwww.com/careers))
4. The UNC Wilmington Career Services website ([www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/psychology.html](http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/psychology.html))
5. A non-exhaustive examination of the *DOT*, during which I searched for occupations not identified by the first four sources

The *DOT* provides descriptions of more than 40,000 occupations that identify the tasks people in these occupations must perform. This makes the *DOT* a very valuable source of information for undergraduate psychology majors because they can use it to discover the skills they must develop in order to gain employment in the occupations they wish to enter. This knowledge can help them identify the opportunities their schools offer to develop these skills (e.g., classes, internships, service learning, and extracurricular activities) and can also provide them with the motivation to take advantage of these opportunities because of their increased awareness of the importance of these skills for their future success. The following is the description of *school psychologist* taken verbatim from the *DOT*. Notice how each sentence begins with a verb, thus identifying the skills school psychologists must possess to perform their job (e.g., evaluates needs, advises teachers, refers individuals to community agencies, counsels pupils, plans special placement, serves as a consultant, carries out research, and conducts diagnostic studies).

*Evaluates needs of average, gifted, handicapped, and disturbed children within educational system or school, and plans and carries out programs to enable children to attain maximum achievement and adjustment: Conducts diagnostic studies to identify child's needs, limitations, and potentials, observing child in classroom and at play, studying school records, consulting with parents and school personnel, and administering and interpreting diagnostic findings. Plans special placement or other treatment programs. Counsels pupils individually and in groups, using psychodrama, play therapy, personal interviews, and other psychological methods to assist pupils to achieve personal, social, and emotional adjustment. Carries out research to aid in introduction of programs in*

*schools to meet current psychological, educational, and sociological needs of children. Advises teachers and other school personnel on methods to enhance school and classroom atmosphere to provide motivating educational environment. Refers individuals to community agencies to secure medical, vocational, or social services for child or family. Participates in planning of remedial classes and testing programs designed to meet needs of students. Serves as consultant to school board, superintendent, administrative committees, and parent-teacher groups in matters involving psychological services within educational system or school.*

Undergraduate psychology majors interested in becoming school psychologists should read this description carefully. Their next step should be to seek out opportunities to develop the skills identified in this description so they will be perceived as possessing the “right stuff” when they apply to school psychology graduate programs.

1. Academic Counselor\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107010.html>
2. Activities Director <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187117046.html>
3. Admissions Evaluator <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/20/205367010.html>
4. Advertising Sales Representative <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/25/254357014.html>
5. Alumni Director <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/090117014.html>
6. Animal Trainer <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/15/159224010.html>
7. Applied Statistician <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/02/020167026.html>
8. Art Therapist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076127010.html>
9. Benefits Manager <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166167018.html>
10. Career Information Specialist <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/24/249367014.html>
11. Caseworker <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107010.html>
12. Chief Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107046.html>
13. Child Development Specialist <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195227018.html>
14. Child Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061010.html>
15. Child Welfare/Placement Caseworker <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107014.html>
16. Claims Supervisor <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/24/241137018.html>
17. Clinical Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107022.html>
18. Coach <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/15/153227010.html>
19. College/University Professor\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/090227010.html>
20. Community Organization Worker <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195167010.html>
21. Community Worker <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195367018.html>
22. Comparative Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061018.html>
23. Computer Programmer <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/03/030162010.html>
24. Conservation Officer <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/37/379167010.html>
25. Correctional Treatment Specialist <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107042.html>
26. Corrections Officer <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/37/372667018.html>
27. Counseling Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107026.html>
28. Criminal Investigator (FBI and other) <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/37/375167042.html>
29. Customer Service Representative Supervisor <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/23/239137014.html>
30. Data Base Administrator <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/03/039162010.html>
31. Data Base Design Analyst <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/03/039162014.html>
32. Delinquency Prevention Social Worker <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107026.html>
33. Department Manager <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/29/299137010.html>
34. Developmental Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061010.html>
35. Dietician <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/077117010.html>
36. Educational Psychologist\* <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045067010.html>
37. Elementary School Teacher <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/092227010.html>
38. Employee Health Maintenance Program Specialist <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166167050.html>

39. Employee Relations Specialist	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267042.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267042.html</a>
40. Employment Counselor	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166257010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166257010.html</a>
41. Employment Interviewer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267010.html</a>
42. Engineering Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061014.html</a>
43. Experimental Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045061018.html</a>
44. Family Counselor/Caseworker*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107018.html</a>
45. Financial Aid Counselor	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/169267018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/169267018.html</a>
46. Fund Raiser I	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/29/293157010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/29/293157010.html</a>
47. Fund Raiser II	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/29/293357014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/29/293357014.html</a>
48. Group Worker	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195164010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195164010.html</a>
49. Guidance Counselor*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107010.html</a>
50. Health Care Facility Administrator	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187117010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187117010.html</a>
51. High School Teacher	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/091227010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/091227010.html</a>
52. Human Resource Advisor	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267046.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267046.html</a>
53. Industrial/Organizational Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html</a>
54. Information Specialist	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/10/109067010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/10/109067010.html</a>
55. Job Analyst	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267018.html</a>
56. Labor Relations Manager	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166167034.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166167034.html</a>
57. Lawyer*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/11/110107010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/11/110107010.html</a>
58. Loan Officer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/186267018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/186267018.html</a>
59. Management Analyst	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/161167010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/161167010.html</a>
60. Market Research Analyst	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/050067014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/050067014.html</a>
61. Marriage and Family Counselor*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107054.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107054.html</a>
62. Medical Social Worker*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107030.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107030.html</a>
63. Mental Retardation Aide	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/35/355377018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/35/355377018.html</a>
64. Military Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html</a>
65. Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Chaplain, etc.*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/12/120107010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/12/120107010.html</a>
66. Music Therapist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076127014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076127014.html</a>
67. Neurologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101050.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101050.html</a>
68. Neuropathologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070061010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070061010.html</a>
69. Neurosurgeon*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101094.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101094.html</a>
70. News Writer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131262014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131262014.html</a>
71. Nurse	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/075364010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/075364010.html</a>
72. Occupational Analyst	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166067010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166067010.html</a>
73. Occupational Therapist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076121010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076121010.html</a>
74. Optometrist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079101018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079101018.html</a>
75. Patient Resources and Reimbursement Agent	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195267018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195267018.html</a>
76. Pediatrician*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101066.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101066.html</a>
77. Penologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/054067014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/054067014.html</a>
78. Personnel Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107030.html</a>
79. Personnel Recruiter	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267038.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/166267038.html</a>
80. Pharmacologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/041061074.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/041061074.html</a>
81. Psychiatrist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101070.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101070.html</a>
82. Physical Therapist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076121014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076121014.html</a>
83. Physician*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101022.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070101022.html</a>
84. Police Officer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/37/375263014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/37/375263014.html</a>
85. Polygraph Examiner	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199267026.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199267026.html</a>
86. Preschool Teacher	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/092227018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/092227018.html</a>
87. Probation/Parole Officer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107046.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107046.html</a>
88. Psychiatric Aide/Attendant	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/35/355377014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/35/355377014.html</a>
89. Psychiatric Social Worker*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107034.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107034.html</a>
90. Psychiatric Technician	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079374026.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079374026.html</a>
91. Psychiatrist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070107014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/070107014.html</a>

92. Psychological Anthropologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/055067010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/05/055067010.html</a>
93. Psychological Stress Evaluator	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199267026.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199267026.html</a>
94. Psychometrist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045067018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045067018.html</a>
95. Public Health Director	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079117014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/079117014.html</a>
96. Public Relations Representative	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/165167014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/165167014.html</a>
97. Purchasing Agent	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/162157038.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/16/162157038.html</a>
98. Real Estate Agent	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/25/250357018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/25/250357018.html</a>
99. Recreation Leader	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195227014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195227014.html</a>
100. Recreation Supervisor	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167238.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167238.html</a>
101. Recreational Therapist	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076124014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076124014.html</a>
102. Research Assistant	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199364014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/199364014.html</a>
103. Retail Salesperson	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/27/279357054.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/27/279357054.html</a>
104. School Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107034.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107034.html</a>
105. School Social Worker*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107038.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107038.html</a>
106. Social Group Worker	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107022.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195107022.html</a>
107. Social Psychologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045067014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045067014.html</a>
108. Social Services Aide	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195367034.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/19/195367034.html</a>
109. Speech Pathologist*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076107010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076107010.html</a>
110. Substance Abuse Counselor	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107058.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107058.html</a>
111. Systems Analyst	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/03/030167014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/03/030167014.html</a>
112. Teacher for the Emotionally Impaired	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227010.html</a>
113. Teacher for the Hearing Impaired	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094224010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094224010.html</a>
114. Teacher for the Learning Disabled	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227030.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227030.html</a>
115. Teacher for the Mentally Impaired	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227022.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094227022.html</a>
116. Teacher for the Visually Impaired	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094224018.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/094224018.html</a>
117. Technical Writer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131267026.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131267026.html</a>
118. Therapist for the Blind*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076224014.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/076224014.html</a>
119. Veterans Contact Representative	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167198.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167198.html</a>
120. Veterinarian*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/073101010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/07/073101010.html</a>
121. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor*	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107042.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/04/045107042.html</a>
122. Vocational Training Teacher	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/097221010.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/09/097221010.html</a>
123. Volunteer Coordinator	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167022.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/18/187167022.html</a>
124. Writer	<a href="http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131067046.html">http://www.occupationalinfo.org/13/131067046.html</a>

**If there are other occupations in the *DOT* that you believe should be included in this list, please email these occupations and their urls to me at [dappleby@iupui.edu](mailto:dappleby@iupui.edu).**

### **Section 3: Jobs available in state and federal governments. How do I apply and compete for these positions?**

Government is big business. The federal and state governments are the country's largest employers of civilians. Federal employees hold hundreds of different kinds of jobs; most of the kinds of occupations found in private industry are found in the government too. Compensation is competitive. A variety of benefits—vacation and sick leave, injury compensation, group life insurance, health plans, and retirement programs—make Federal employment attractive, also. Similar benefits may be offered by state agencies.

**Federal Government:** The Federal Career Directory - A Guide for College Students (check for more recent editions in your college placement office) describes a variety of Federal careers and jobs for college graduates. Among positions which are relevant to psychology majors with a B. A. degree are the following: psychology technician (e.g., in a VA hospital or research laboratory), correctional officer, employment assistant specialist, manpower development specialist, social science analyst, writer-editor (scientific and technical writing), and statistician (for candidates with a strong background in math and statistics plus courses in social sciences). Other professional and administrative jobs specify no particular major with the bachelor's degree.

To find more about these jobs and how to apply you should get in touch with the nearest Federal Job Information Center. At least one center is located in every state (A list of information centers for each state appears at the end of this article). Write, call, or preferably visit one of these centers located nearest to you or in the area in which you seek employment. These centers serve as a "one stop information service" for the prospective candidate, as they provide information about the job opportunities and vacancies, requirements and qualifications, and application and examination procedures. A variety of pamphlets is available from the information centers.

Most federal positions are filled on a competitive basis under the civil service merit system. You will receive a civil service rating on the basis of your education, experience, and performance on written examinations (if required for the particular job). If you meet the requirements for a particular job announcement, then your name will be put on a list of eligibles. Appointments to jobs may be made from within federal agencies, e.g., by promotion of an employee or by hiring a qualified employee from another federal agency. However, when a job is to be filled from a list of eligibles, appointments are made by choosing any one of three top ranked eligibles.

Some professional and administrative positions for college students require applications to take the Professional and Administrative Career Examination (PACE). Satisfactory performance on the PACE plus suitable education and experience will qualify you for an appointment at the grade of GS-5 or GS-7.

To qualify for a professional job covered by the PACE you must meet certain education and/or experience requirements (in addition to scoring well on the parts of the exam which are relevant to the job you are seeking). The education and experience requirements for GS-5 positions are easily met; your bachelor's degree satisfies the requirement. For a GS-7 job the requirements can be satisfied in two ways, either by (a) having a bachelor's degree plus 1 year of graduate study, or 4 years of relevant experience, or (b) having a bachelor's degree, and earned rating of 90 or higher on the PACE and either a 2.9 GPA on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate courses, or a rank in the upper third of your class, or membership in a recognized national honorary scholastic society (e.g., Psi Chi).

As stated previously, selection for open positions is based upon your relative standing (ranking) among all applicants who qualify for the position.

Each position announcement will list other education, experience, and perceived characteristics that are important for applicants.

**State Government.** State government employment opportunities will vary from state to state. Merit or civil service systems are established in all states. Addresses for information and application appear below. You should write or call the appropriate agency or officer in your state for information. State job qualifications are similar to those adopted for Federal positions. Thus, education, experience, and examination performance will determine your merit rating for state jobs.

### General Information

**APA's Students Considering Careers in Psychology:**

<http://www.apa.org/students/student1.html?imw=Y>

**APA's Nonacademic Careers for Scientific Psychologists**

[www.apa.org/science/nonacad\\_careers.html](http://www.apa.org/science/nonacad_careers.html)

**Marky Lloyd's Careers in Psychology** [www.psywww.com/careers/index.htm](http://www.psywww.com/careers/index.htm)

**Psychology Careers**

[www.apa.org/students/brochure](http://www.apa.org/students/brochure)

**Vault Guides**

[www.cmc.edu>Students>Career Service Center>Links>VAULT](http://www.cmc.edu>Students>Career Service Center>Links>VAULT)

**Pomona's Guide to Neuroscience Careers/Resources:**

<http://www.neuroscience.pomona.edu/Resources.htm>

**Society for Neuroscience: Neurojobs:**

[http://www.jobtarget.com/home/index.cfm?site\\_id=397](http://www.jobtarget.com/home/index.cfm?site_id=397)

### Career Planning & Information

**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](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](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>

### Graduate School

**Note:** Get the *Frequently Asked Questions for Graduate School in Psychology* handout for an in-depth discussion of what you need to do to prepare for graduate school as well as other URL's to get you to reliable sources.

**Accredited Graduate Programs in Counseling** [www.counseling.org/cacrep/directory.htm](http://www.counseling.org/cacrep/directory.htm)  
**AmoebaWeb/Psychology on the Web** [www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/amoebaweb](http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/amoebaweb)  
**PsycCareers**

[www.apa.org/science/nonacad\\_careers.html](http://www.apa.org/science/nonacad_careers.html)

**Psych Ed Job Connect**

[www.psyched.net](http://www.psyched.net)

**School Psychology Job Center** [www.schoolpsychology.net/p\\_jobs.html](http://www.schoolpsychology.net/p_jobs.html)

**Social Service.com**

[www.socialservice.com](http://www.socialservice.com)

**Social Psychology Network**

[www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm](http://www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm)

### **Job Listings / Job Search:**

**Vault Guides**

- Vault.com (Career Service Center Website>*Links*>VAULT>password, read instructions online)
- Although the Vault guides are not sorted by academic area, they are sorted by industry so we suggest you read the guides of the industries you are interested in to learn more about them

**School Psychology Job Center**

[http://www.schoolpsychology.net/p\\_jobs.html](http://www.schoolpsychology.net/p_jobs.html)

- List of school psychology jobs and internships

**Geocities**

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/5353/classes/psychjobs/>

- Long list with great variety of psychology related jobs

**Psych Ed Job Connect**

<http://www.psyched.net/>

- More psychology related jobs

**Social Service.com**

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

- Job search database of social service related jobs

**Jobsience.com**

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

- Job search database for healthcare professionals

### **Federal Jobs**

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

Official job site of United States Federal Government

<http://www.dhhs.gov/jobs/index.html>

Jobs with the US Department Health and Human Services

<http://www.hud.gov/jobs/index.cfm>

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

<http://www.nationalservice.org/>

The Corporation for National & Community Service (includes Americorp)

<http://nih.gov> (see Pomona's Resources Site for the Job Site at the National Institute of Health)

**Organizations and Associations**

**American Psychological Association**

1200 17<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
www.apa.org

**Association for Psychological Science**

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>

**American Counseling Association**

www.counseling.org/site/PageServer

**American Psychological Society**

www.psychologicalscience.org

**National Association of Social Workers**

[www.naswdc.org](http://www.naswdc.org)

**Society for Neuroscience**

[www.sfn.org](http://www.sfn.org)

**Cognitive Neuroscience Society**

<http://www.cogneurosociety.org/>

**Association of Black Psychologists**

PO Box 55999  
Washington, DC 20040

**Association for the Advancement of Psychology**

1200 17<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20036

**National Hispanic Psychological Association c/o Floyd Martinez**

L.A. County Department of Mental Health  
2415 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

## **Selected Career Center Resources**

### **Books**

- Great Jobs for Psychology Majors
- Majoring in Psych? Career Options for Psychology Undergraduates
- Careers for Caring People & Other Sensitive Types
- Getting In: A Step-by-Step Plan for Gaining Admission to Graduate School in Psychology
- Graduate Study in Psychology

### **Alumni Binders**

- Alumni binders are sorted by both industry and location. Psychology majors might find the merchandising, advertising, consumer products, journalism, public relations, non-profit and consulting binders useful.

## **Other Information**

### **Online Assessments:**

- We strongly suggest you take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or the Strong Interest Inventory Assessment available to you through the Career Services Center. See Online Assessment Instructions for details.

### **Career Counseling for Psychology Majors:**

- For setting up an appointment for career counseling, graduate school advising, and internships contact Beth Ricca; e-mail: [bricca@cmc.edu](mailto:bricca@cmc.edu)