

Roster of Job Prospects for Psychology Graduates

Source: APA guidelines for the undergraduate psychology major: Version 2.0 (2013)

What can students do with a background in psychology?

Although no listing of possible psychology-related jobs can be exhaustive or completely accurate, the chart below distinguishes between typical jobs associated with a bachelor's degree (List 1) and jobs associated with careers that routinely involve training beyond the baccalaureate level (List 2).

Critics often malign the baccalaureate degree in psychology as ineffective preparation for the workforce. However, scanning the list of potential careers in List 1 suggests that a psychology major's skills can be effectively deployed in a variety of workplace contexts, including human services, health care, research, sales and marketing, and many others. A bachelor's degree in psychology may not necessarily be required for the job titles in the first list (Appleby, Millspaugh, & Hammersley, 2011), but a psychology background can help students be competitive in these job areas. Even if a student receives a bachelor's degree in psychology, that student is not required to go into a psychology related field when entering the workforce. Consequently, psychology graduates may emerge in occupations that would not necessarily be expected from their academic preparation.

List 2 selections include career choices that represent positions requiring additional education beyond the baccalaureate degree both in psychology graduate programs (e.g., counselor, psychologist, psychology professor) and other professional pathways (e.g., lawyer, veterinarian, psychiatric nurse) that have less obvious connections to the undergraduate psychology major.

Cautionary note: The roster should not be construed as a guaranteed job pathway. Success in landing a position that benefits from a background in psychology will always be dependent on a combination of factors, including the applicant's job-seeking skills and marketplace demands. Rajecki (2008) suggested that some job lists may be misleading in that psychology majors looking at these job lists are either underqualified or overqualified for the position. Thus, in providing a broad look at job opportunities, students may be mismatched with occupations. For a broad perspective about careers within psychology, see Rajecki and Borden (2011).

Potential careers with a bachelor's degree in psychology

Activities Director	Coach	Disability Policy Worker
Admissions Evaluator	Community Organization Worker	Disability Case Manager
Advertising Sales Representative	Community Worker	Employee Health Maintenance Program Specialist
Alumni Director	Computer Programmer	Employee Relations Specialist
Animal Trainer	Conservation Officer	Employment Counselor
Army Mental Health Specialist	Correctional Treatment Specialist	Employment Interviewer
Benefits Manager	Corrections Officer	Financial Aid Counselor
Career/Employment Counselor	Criminal Investigator (FBI and other)	Fund Raiser
Career Information Specialist	Customer Service Representative Supervisor	Health Care Facility Administrator
Caseworker	Data Base Administrator	Host/Hostess
Child Development Specialist	Data Base Design Analyst	Human Resource Advisor
Child Welfare/Placement Caseworker	Department Manager	Information Specialist
Claims Supervisor	Dietician	Job Analyst

Labor Relations Manager	Probation/Parole Officer	Research Assistant
Loan Officer	Project Evaluator	Retail Salesperson
Management Analyst	Psychiatric Aide/Attendant	Sales Clerk
Market Research Analyst	Psychiatric Technician	Social Services Aide
Mental Retardation Aide	Psychological Stress Evaluator	Substance Abuse Counselor
News Writer	Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist (PSR)	Systems Analyst
Occupational Analyst	Public Relations Representative	Technical Writer
Patient Resources and Reimbursement Agent	Purchasing Agent	Veterans Contact Representative
Personnel Recruiter	Real Estate Agent	Veterans Counselor
Police Officer	Recreation Leader	Victims' Advocate
Polygraph Examiner	Recreation Supervisor	Vocational Training Teacher
Preschool Teacher	Recreational Therapist	Volunteer Coordinator
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Careers that require a degree beyond the bachelor's degree in psychology

Academic Counselor	Family Counselor/Caseworker	Occupational Therapist
Applied Statistician	Forensic Psychologist	Optometrist
Art Therapist	Gerontological Counselor	Pediatrician
Assessment Professional	Geropsychologist	Personnel Psychologist
Biogerontologist	Guidance Counselor	Physiatrist
Chief Psychologist	Health Psychologist	Physical Therapist
Child Abuse Counselor	Industrial/Organizational Psych	Physician
Child Counselor	Lawyer	Program Evaluator
Child Psychologist	Licensed Professional Counselor	Psychiatric Nurse
Clinical Psychologist	Marriage and Family Counselor	Psychiatric Social Worker
Clinical Social Worker	Marriage and Family Therapist	Psychiatrist
Cognitive Neuroscientist	Mathematical Psychologist	Psychological Anthropologist
Cognitive Psychologist	Medical Social Worker	Psychologist
College/University Professor	Mental Health Counselor	Psychometrician
Community Psychologist	Military Chaplain	Psychotherapist
Comparative Psychologist	Military Counselor	Rehabilitation Psychologist
Consumer Psychologist	Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Chaplain	School Psychologist
Counseling Psychologist	Multicultural Counselor	School Social Worker
Developmental Psychologist	Music Therapist	Social Psychologist
Domestic Violence Counselor	Neurologist	Speech Pathologist
Educational Psychologist	Neuropathologist	Sport Psychologist
Exercise Therapist	Neuropsychologist	Veterinarian
Experimental Psychologist	Neurosurgeon	Vocational Rehab Couns

References

- Appleby, D. C., Millspaugh, B. S., Hammersley, M. J. (2011). An online resource to enable undergraduate psychology majors to identify and investigate 172 psychology and psychology-related careers. *Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology*. Retrieved from <http://teachpsych.org/otrp/resources/index.php?category=Advising>
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Source

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