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  
Loan Officer  
Management Analyst  
Market Research Analyst  
Mental Retardation Aide  
News Writer  
Occupational Analyst  
Patient Resources and Reimbursement Agent  
Personnel Recruiter  
Police Officer  
Polygraph Examiner  
Preschool Teacher  
Probation/Parole Officer  
Project Evaluator  
Psychiatric Aide/Attendant  
Psychiatric Technician  
Psychological Stress Evaluator  
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist (PSR)  
Public Relations Representative  
Purchasing Agent  
Real Estate Agent  
Recreation Leader  
Recreation Supervisor  
Recreational Therapist  

Careers that require a degree beyond the bachelor’s degree in psychology  
Academic Counselor  
Applied Statistician  
Art Therapist  
Assessment Professional  
Biogerontologist  
Chief Psychologist  
Child Abuse Counselor  
Child Counselor  
Child Psychologist  
Clinical Psychologist  
Clinical Social Worker  
Cognitive Neuroscientist  
Cognitive Psychologist  
College/University Professor  
Community Psychologist  
Comparative Psychologist  
Consumer Psychologist  
Counseling Psychologist  
Developmental Psychologist  
Domestic Violence Counselor  
Educational Psychologist  
Exercise Therapist  
Experimental Psychologist  
Family Counselor/Caseworker  
Forensic Psychologist  
Gerontological Counselor  
Geropsychologist  
Guidance Counselor  
Health Psychologist  
Industrial/Organizational Psychologist  
Lawyer  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
Marriage and Family Counselor  
Marriage and Family Therapist  
Mathematical Psychologist  
Medical Social Worker  
Mental Health Counselor  
Military Chaplin  
Military Counselor  
Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Chaplain  
Multicultural Counselor  
Music Therapist  
Neurologist  
Neuropathologist  
Neuropsychologist  
Neurosurgeon  
Occupational Therapist  
Optometrist  
Pediatrician  
Personnel Psychologist  
Physiatrist  
Physical Therapist  
Physician  
Program Evaluator  
Psychiatric Nurse  
Psychiatric Social Worker  
Psychiatrist  
Psychological Anthropologist  
Psychologist  
Psychometrician  
Psychotherapist  
Rehabilitation Psychologist  
School Psychologist  
School Social Worker  
Social Psychologist  
Speech Pathologist  
Sport Psychologist  
Veterinarian  
Vocational Rehab Counselor  
Research Assistant  
Retail Salesperson  
Sales Clerk  
Social Services Aide  
Substance Abuse Counselor  
Systems Analyst  
Technical Writer  
Veterans Contact Representative  
Veterans Counselor  
Victims’ Advocate  
Vocational Training Teacher  
Volunteer Coordinator  
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