Psychology

Psychology is the study of mental processes and behavior. Psychologists study such phenomena as perception, cognition, emotion, personality, behavior, and interpersonal relationships. In addition to investigating the brain's implementation of elementary mental functions, psychology also attempts to understand the role these functions play in social behavior and in social dynamics.

Clinical psychologists assess and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders of individuals. These range from short-term crises such as difficulties from adolescent rebellion, to more severe, chronic conditions such as schizophrenia. School psychologists work with students in early childhood and elementary and secondary schools. They collaborate with teachers, parents, and school personnel to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments for all students. Psychologists employed in applied settings, such as business, industry, government, or nonprofit organizations, provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology. Experimental psychologists plan, design, conduct, and analyze results of experiments to study problems in psychology.

Employment of psychologists is expected to grow 15 percent from 2006 to 2016—faster than average for all occupations. Growing awareness of how students' mental health and behavioral problems, such as bullying, affect learning will increase demand for school psychologists. The rise in health care costs associated with unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, alcoholism, and obesity, has made prevention and treatment more critical. An increase in the number of employee assistance programs, which help workers deal with personal problems, also should lead to employment growth for clinical and counseling specialties. The growing number of elderly will increase the demand for psychologists trained in geropsychology to help people deal with the mental and physical changes that occur as individuals grow older. There also will be increased need for psychologists to work with returning veterans.

Some career possibilities for Psychology majors:

- Advertising Manager
- Counselor (Career)
- Counselor (Mental Health)
- Counselor (School/College)
- Criminologist
- Editor
- Educator
- Employment Counselor
- Employee Assistance Administrator
- Gerontologist
- Guidance Counselor
- Human Resource Manager
- Industrial Psychologist
- Job Analyst
- Market Research Analyst
- Mental Health Worker
- Minister
- Nursing/Psychiatric Aide
- Occupational Therapist
- Outplacement Specialist
- Penologist
- Personnel Manager
- Psychologist
- Psychometrist
- Physician
- Police Officer
- Probation Officer
- Psychiatric Nurse
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Psychiatric Technician
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist, Clinical
- Psychologist, Experimental
- Psychologist, Experimental
- Psychometer
- Public Relations Specialist
- Safety Engineer
- Sales Worker
- Social Worker
- Speech Pathologist
- Technical Writer
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Possible employers of Psychology majors:

- Adoption Agencies
- Churches/Religious Groups
- Clinics
- Colleges/Universities
- Community Organizations
- Correctional Institutions
- Educational/ Psychological Periodicals
- Hospitals
- Marketing Agencies
- Medical Schools
- Mental Health Agencies
- Non-profit Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Orphanages
- Personnel Departments
- Police Departments
- Social Service Agencies
- Local, State, Federal & Tribal Government
- Substance Abuse Agencies
- Test Development Corporations
- Women's Shelters
- Youth Organizations

Professional Organizations & Additional Information:

- American Psychological Association
  750 First Street, NE
  Washington, DC 20002
  www.apa.org

- American School Counselor Association
  1101 King Street, Suite 625
  Alexandria, VA 22314
  www.schoolcounselor.org

- Association for Humanistic Psychology
  1516 Oak St, #320A
  Alameda, CA 94501
  www.ahpweb.org

- American Counseling Association
  5999 Stevenson Avenue
  Alexandria, VA 22304
  www.counseling.org

- The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
  208 I St, NE, Washington, DC 20002
  www.spssi.org

- National Indian Child Welfare Association
  5100 S.W. Macadam Ave, Ste 300
  Portland, Oregon 97239
  www.nicwa.org

- Professional Organizations & Additional Information: