What Can I Do With A Degree in Psychology?

Human Services Areas
- Counseling
- Advocacy
- Mental Health Services
- Case Management
- Programming
- Community Relations
- Administration

Employers
- Federal, state, or local government
- Senior citizens' centers
- United Way agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Religiously-affiliated service organizations
- Hospitals

Strategies
- Obtain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs such as camp counselor, tutor, or resident hall advisor.
- Complete an internship for academic credit.
- Gain experience through volunteering with organizations such as crisis hotlines, Big Brother or Sister, Special Olympics, service fraternities or sororities, etc.
- Become fluent in a foreign language spoken by multicultural clients.
- Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.
- Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for substantive counseling work and advancement into administrative work.
**Research**

**Areas**
- Social Research
- Market Research
- Data Analysis

**Employers**
- Federal government
- National headquarters of non-profit organizations
- Universities and colleges

**Strategies**
- Work with a professor on his or her research project.
- Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills.
- Obtain a graduate degree for greater opportunities.

**Human Resources**

**Areas**
- Employment and Recruitment
- Labor Relations
- Compensation and Benefits

**Employers**
- Large companies
- Government agencies
- Employment and temporary agencies
- Large non-profit organizations including hospitals and educational institutions

**Strategies**
- Acquire related experience as a resident hall advisor, orientation leader, admissions tour guide, or student assistant in career services.
- Find student organization committee work in policy making or settling disputes.
- Supplement curriculum with business courses.
- Acquire strong computer skills.

**Public Relations**

**Areas**
- Research
- Programming
- Writing and Editing
- Event Planning
- Media Placement
- Public Speaking
- Fund-raising

**Employers**
- Public relations and advertising firms
- Companies with public relations departments
- Professional associations
- Federal, state and local government
- Colleges and universities
- Non-profit organizations

**Strategies**
- Develop strong writing and speaking skills.
- Obtain related experience with campus newspaper, television, or radio station.
- Serve as an admissions tour guide or work in alumni relations or other PR-related functions.
- Volunteer as a fund-raiser or political canvasser.
- Gain experience through internships.
- Join the campus chapter of Public Relations Society of America.

**Advertising**

**Areas**
- Creative
- Media
- Account Services
- Research
Employers
Advertising agencies
Companies with in-house advertising agencies or departments

Strategies
- Obtain relevant experience with campus newspaper, television, or radio station.
- Work with student-run businesses. Find an internship, even if unpaid, with a market research or advertising firm.
- Develop a portfolio for creative positions.
- Obtain a business minor or double major for account services positions.

Market Research
Employers
Market research firms or departments of consumer goods and manufacturing firms

Strategies
- Develop a strong background in math and statistics.
- Get involved in the American Marketing Association.
- Get a part-time or summer field service position with a market research firm.
- Obtain business research experience.
- Serve as a canvasser or phone interviewer for a non-profit organization or political campaign.
- Earn a graduate degree in statistics or marketing for the greatest number of opportunities.

Education
Areas
Teaching
Student Affairs
Administration
Training

Adult Learning
Employers
Public and private schools
Colleges and universities

Strategies
- Obtain teaching certificate for public school positions.
- Dual certification will increase marketability.
- Seek guidance from education department of your college. Secure strong personal recommendations.
- Volunteer as a tutor.
- Gain experience working with children or adolescents.
- PhD required for post-secondary teaching.

Retailing
Areas
Management

Employers
Department stores
Specialty stores
Discount stores
Super retailers

Strategies
- Secure leadership positions in campus organizations.
- Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store.
- Demonstrate a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as “assistant manager.”
- Be willing to start in a management-trainee program.
- Learn to work well with different types of people.

Sales
Employers
Retailers
Service providers
Wholesalers
Manufacturers
Insurance companies
Real estate companies

Strategies
- Obtain experience through internships or sales jobs.
- Take business courses.
- Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles.
- Must be highly motivated and well organized.
- Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.
- Must work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment.

General Information
- Psychology provides a broad, liberal arts background.
- Some students may choose to study psychology because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, it is critical to develop desirable skills through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences. Some skills valued most by employers include: communication, interpersonal, leadership, teamwork, and computer skills.
- Other students may major in psychology because they want to work in a related field. Many entry-level helping positions are available; however the amount of direct client contact is limited for those who have a bachelor's degree. Students may wish to pursue graduate education in psychology, social work, counseling, college student personnel, or other related fields to increase opportunities and earning potential.
- For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer or work opportunities. Assist a faculty member with his or her research.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Exploring Majoring in Psychology
Psi Chi - The International Honor Society in Psychology
http://www.psichi.org/Pubs/Articles/Article_68.aspx

University of Delaware
http://www.udel.edu/CSC/psych.html

Kansas State
http://www.k-state.edu/acic/majorin/psychology.htm

University of Manitoba
http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/media/newpsychology.pdf

Career Exploration
Occupational Outlook Handbook - Psychologist
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos056.htm

Occupational Outlook Handbook - Counselors
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos067.htm

Occupational Outlook Handbook - Social and Human Service Assistants
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos059.htm

http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos021.htm

Occupational Outlook Handbook - Teachers-Postsecondary
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm
Occupational Outlook Handbook - Teachers-Elementary, Middle and Secondary
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.htm

Occupational Outlook Handbook - Social Assistance Industry Guide
http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs040.htm

Psych Web

Sloan Career Cornerstone
http://www.careercornerstone.org/psychologist/psychologist.htm

Social Psychology Network
http://www.socialpsychology.org/career.htm#careertips

Encyclopedia of Psychology
http://www.psychology.org/links/Career/

Explore Health Careers

Medical and Public Health Jobs with the Federal Government
http://www.makingthedifference.org/federalcareers/socialwork.shtml

Job Postings
SMC Student Job Search - www.stmarys-ca.edu/studentjobs

Society for Human Resource Management
http://www.shrm.org/Pages/default.aspx

American Counseling Association
http://www.counseling.org/

American Psychological Association
http://jobs psyccareers.com/search.cfm

Professional Associations
American Psychological Association
http://www.apa.org/about/students.aspx
Search the divisions for specific societies within the APA

Association for Psychological Science
http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.cfm

The Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
http://www.siop.org/tip/TIP.aspx

American Counseling Association
http://www.counseling.org/

National Board for Certified Counselors
http://www.nbcc.org/

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
http://www.aamft.org/

Society for Human Resource Management
http://www.shrm.org/Pages/default.aspx