

“What Can I Do With a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology?”

Drew C. Appleby, PhD (Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)

Psychology majors often ask, “What can I do with a bachelor’s degree in psychology?” The purpose of the resource described in this poster is to provide an answer to this question. This resource consists of 300 careers that psychology majors can prepare to enter, which are organized into the 15 broad **occupational categories** highlighted in **YELLOW** below. Those that can be entered with a **bachelor’s degree** are highlighted in **BLUE**, and those requiring a **graduate degree** are highlighted in **GREEN**. Careers whose futures are promising because they are expected to grow rapidly in the next several years, will have large numbers of job openings, or are new and emerging occupations are followed by 🌟. Persons employed in 57 of these careers are psychologists who hold the appropriate graduate degree. The remaining 243 psychology-related careers (i.e., those that require the demonstration of psychological knowledge and skills, but which do not carry the title of psychologist) are divided almost equally into two categories: those that can be entered with a bachelor’s degree and those that require a graduate degree. Each career is followed by a set of hotlinks to websites containing information such as required skills and knowledge, work activities and environment, necessary preparation, and pay scale. Students can access this resource under the Academic Advising tab at <http://www.teachpsych.org/page-1603066>, and a formal introduction to this resource for faculty can be accessed at the same address. Faculty, advisors, and administrators can use this resource in classes, advising sessions, and departmental websites to help psychology majors begin the process of accomplishing *Goal 5: Professional Development of APA’s Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major* by acquiring an understanding of the “settings in which people with backgrounds in psychology typically work,” and to become familiar with the “skill sets desired by employers who hire or select people with psychology backgrounds,” thus enabling them “to develop meaningful professional directions.”

Business, Advertising, and Finance

- Advertising Sales Representative
- Claims Supervisor
- Customer Service Representative
- Customer Service Rep Supervisor
- Department Manager
- Financial Advisor
- Fund Raiser
- Loan Counselor
- Loan Officer
- Management Analyst
- Market Research Analyst
- Media Buyer
- Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
- Purchasing Agent
- Realtor or Real Estate Agent
- Retail Salesperson
- Sales Representative
- Public Relations Representative
- Consumer Psychologist
- Executive Coach
- Industrial/Organizational Psychologist

Children and Families

- Child Development Specialist
- Child Life Specialist
- Child Protection/Placement Caseworker
- Child Welfare/Protection Social Worker
- Parent (Biological or Adoptive)
- Parent (Professional)
- Adolescent Counselor
- Child Abuse Counselor
- Child Psychologist
- Developmental Psychologist
- Domestic Abuse or Violence Counselor
- Family Counselor or Caseworker
- Marriage/Family Counselor/Therapist
- Pediatric Psychologist

Counseling

- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Career/Employment Counselor
- Community Counselor
- Counseling Psychologist
- Depression Counselor
- Genetic Counselor
- Gerontological Counselor
- Grief Counselor
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Marriage/Family Counselor/Therapist
- Mental Health Counselor
- Military Counselor
- Multicultural Counselor
- Pastoral Counselor

- School Guidance Counselor
- Spiritual or Meditative Counselor
- Suicide Counselor
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Education

- Admissions Evaluator
- Alumni Director
- Elementary School Teacher
- Financial Aid Counselor
- High School Teacher
- Preschool Teacher
- Special Education Teacher
- Teacher for the Emotionally Impaired
- Teacher for the Hearing Impaired
- Teacher for the Learning Disabled
- Teacher for the Learning Disabled
- Teacher for the Visually Impaired
- Vocational Training Teacher
- Academic Advisor or Counselor
- Assessment Professional
- Career or Vocational Counselor
- College or University Professor
- College or University Administrator
- Director of College Admissions
- Educational Psychologist
- Psychometrics
- School Guidance Counselor
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Social Work Teacher, Postsecondary
- Special Education Counselor
- Speech Pathologist
- Student Affairs Professional

Health and Medical Services

- Child Life Specialist
- Coroner
- Health Care Facility Administrator
- Health Coach / Educator
- Health Information Specialist
- Hearing Aid Specialist
- Funeral Director/Undertaker/Mortician
- Paramedic/Emergency Medical Tech
- Patient Advocate
- Patient Resources/Reimbursement Agent
- Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
- Psychiatric Aide / Attendant
- Psychiatric Technician
- Public Health Director
- Public Health Social Worker
- Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse
- Audiologist
- Behavioral Health Consultant/Counselor
- Biogerontologist
- Chiropractor

Child Psychiatry

- Dentist
- Dietitian
- Health Psychologist
- Hospitalist
- Internist
- Eating Disorder Counselor/Therapist
- Eating Disorder Care Provider
- Family and General Practitioners
- Occupational Health Psychologist
- Outpatient Therapist
- Medical Social Worker
- Naturopathic Physician
- Neurologist
- Neuropathologist
- Neurosurgeon
- Nurse Practitioner
- Optometrist
- Pediatric Psychologist
- Pediatrician
- Pharmacologist
- Physiologist
- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Psychiatrist
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Public Health Psychologist
- Rehabilitation Psychologist
- Veterinarian

Human Resources

- Benefits Manager
- Disability Policy Worker
- Disability Case Manager
- Disability Support Worker
- Employee Health Program Specialist
- Employee Relations Specialist
- Employment Interviewer
- Human Resource Advisor
- Job Analyst
- Labor Relations Manager
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Occupational Analyst
- Personnel Recruiter
- Career/Employment Counselor
- Organizational Development Specialist

Law and Law Enforcement

- Conservation Officer
- Coroner
- Correctional Treatment Specialist
- Corrections Officer
- Criminal Investigator or Detective
- Delinquency Prevention Social Worker
- Fire / Arson Investigator
- Immigration Officer

Paralegal or Legal Assistant

- Police Officer
- Polygraph Examiner
- Probation or Parole Officer
- Security Manager
- Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff
- Victims’ Advocates
- Criminal Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Legal Psychologist
- Lawyer
- Operational Psychologist

Military

- Army Infantry Officer
- Army Mental Health Specialist
- Military Intelligence Officer
- Veterans Contact / Service Representative
- Veterans Counselor
- Army Psychologist
- Air Force Psychologist
- Military Chaplain
- Military Counselor
- Military Psychologist
- Navy Clinical Psychologist
- Navy Research Psychologist
- Operational Psychologist

Psychology

- Adolescent Psychologist
- Air Force Psychologist
- Analytical Psychologist
- Army Psychologist
- Aviation Psychologist
- Biological Psychologist
- Child Psychologist
- Christian Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Cognitive Psychologist
- Community Psychologist
- Comparative Psychologist
- Consulting Psychologist
- Consumer Psychologist
- Counseling Psychologist
- Criminal Psychologist
- Cross Cultural Psychologist
- Developmental Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Engineering Psychologist
- Environmental Psychologist
- Evolutionary Psychologist
- Existential Psychologist
- Experimental or Research Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Gender Psychologist
- Geriatric Psychologist

Health Psychologist

- Humanistic Psychologist
- Industrial/Organizational Psychologist
- Legal Psychologist
- Occupational Health Psychologist
- Operational Psychologist
- Media Psychologist
- Military Psychologist
- Music Psychologist
- Navy Clinical Psychologist
- Navy Research Psychologist
- Neuropsychologist
- Pediatric Psychologist
- Personality Psychologist
- Performance Psychologist
- Positive Psychologist
- Psychoanalysis
- Physiological Psychologist
- Political Psychologist
- Public Health Psychologist
- Psychometrist
- Rehabilitation Psychologist
- Religion Psychologist
- School Psychologist
- Social Psychologist
- Spiritual Psychologist
- Sport Psychologist
- Traffic Psychologist
- Transpersonal Psychology
- Quantitative Psychologist
- Vocational Psychologist

Religion and Spirituality

- Youth Minister
- Christian Psychologist
- Military Chaplain
- Minister/Priest/Rabbi/Chaplain
- Pastoral Counselor
- Religion Psychologist
- Spiritual Psychologist
- Spiritual or Meditative Counselor
- Transpersonal Psychologist

Social and Human Services

- Caseworker or Case Manager
- Child Placement Social Worker
- Child Protection Social Worker
- Community Organization Worker
- Community Worker
- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Geriatric Social Worker
- Group Worker
- Social and Human Services Aide
- Clinical Social Worker
- Mental Health Social Worker
- Psychiatric Social Worker

Social Gerontologist

- Social Work Teacher, Postsecondary
- Substance Abuse Social Worker

Sport, Recreation, and Fitness

- Activities Director
- Coach/Scout
- Fitness/Personal Trainer
- Recreation Leader or Supervisor
- Recreational Therapist
- Exercise Therapist
- Performance Psychologist
- Sport Psychologist

Technology

- Computer Programmer
- Data Base Administrator
- Data Base Design Analyst
- Software Developer
- Systems Analyst
- User Experience Analyst
- Human Factors Engineer

Therapy

- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Recreational Therapist
- Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapist
- Art Therapist
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapist
- Existential Therapist
- Holistic Therapist
- Marriage/Family Counselor/Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Outpatient Therapist
- Pediatric Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Primary Therapist
- Psychoanalytic Therapist
- Psychotherapist
- Reality Therapist
- Sex Therapist
- Therapist for the Blind

Other

- Actor
- Airline Pilot
- Animal Trainer
- Arbitrator/Mediator/Ombudsman
- Life Coach
- Conference/Wedding/Event Planner
- Photographer
- Research Assistant
- Technical Writer
- Transformational Coach
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Applied or Analytical Statistician