

# PSYCHOLOGY

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

#### HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling  
Advocacy  
Mental Health Services  
Case Management  
Programming  
Community Relations  
Administration

### EMPLOYERS

Federal government, including Departments of:  
Health and Human Services  
Justice  
Veterans Administration  
State government, including Departments of:  
Human Services  
Mental Health & Mental Retardation  
Community mental health centers  
State psychiatric hospitals  
Facilities for mentally impaired  
Justice  
Probation and parole  
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.  
Many entry-level helping positions require one year of related experience. Volunteer experience can typically fulfill this requirement.  
Learn to work well with different types of people.  
Develop strong communication skills.  
Cultivate the desire to help others.  
Become fluent in a foreign language spoken by multi-cultural clients.  
Be willing to relocate.  
Become familiar with government hiring procedures.  
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.  
Many specialties exist at the graduate level, for example school counseling, mental health counseling, rehabilitation counseling, etc. Pursue particular degrees depending upon interests and career goals.  
Pursue an excellent academic record.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### RESEARCH

Federal government including:  
Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institute of Education  
Office of Naval Research  
National headquarters of non-profit organizations  
Universities and colleges

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

Employment and Recruitment  
Labor Relations  
Compensation and Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

Creative  
Media  
Account Services  
Research

Advertising agencies  
Companies with in-house advertising  
agencies or departments

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.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### MARKET RESEARCH

Market research firms  
Market research departments of  
consumer goods and manufacturing firms

Develop a strong background in math and statistics.  
Get involved in the American Marketing Association.  
Obtain related experience. 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.

### TEACHING

Public and private schools  
Colleges and universities

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 Management

Department stores  
Specialty stores  
Discount stores  
Super retailers

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

Retailers  
Service providers  
Wholesalers  
Manufacturers  
Insurance companies  
Real estate companies

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.

(Psychology, p.4)

### **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.