Psychology Majors: How You Can Prepare NOW for Post Graduation Employment

Read Here to Find Out:

Where do Psychology Grads work?
- Nonprofit agencies
- Healthcare organizations
- School systems

JOBS You Can Do with a B.A. in Psychology
- Human/Social Services
- Research
- Business
- Human Resources

How You Can Plan NOW for Success Later
- Academic Performance
- Course Selection
- Internships
- Research Opportunities
- Part-time jobs
- Networking

From the Employer’s Perspective
- Characteristics, knowledge, and abilities rated highly by employers

Where You Can Go for Help
- Undergraduate Advising in the Psychology Department
- Temple University Career Center
- Center for Internships and Career Development in the College of Liberal Arts
- American Psychological Association
**Where do Psychology Grads work?**

Graduates with a B.A. in Psychology find employment in a variety of settings. These include nonprofit agencies, private psychological/counseling practices, hospitals, nursing homes, healthcare organizations, community mental health agencies, rehabilitation centers, victim services centers, social service agencies, school systems, daycare centers, correctional institutions, law enforcement, court systems, government agencies, research institutes, colleges, universities, business and industry, and human resource departments. Psychology grads also find employment in fields outside of psychology, such as business management, sales, educational settings, and human resource management.

**JOBS You Can Do with a B.A. in Psychology**

**Human/Social Services:** Case Worker, Child Protection Worker, Therapeutic Staff Support, Teacher Assistant, Psychiatric Assistant, Rehabilitation Advisor, Residential Youth Counselor, Drug/Substance Abuse Counselor, Family Service Worker, Group Home Coordinator, Probation/Parole Officer, etc.

**Research:** Research Assistant, Data Analyst, Market Research Analyst, Laboratory Manager, etc.

**Business:** Sales Representative, Marketing Representative, Claims Specialist, Administrative Assistant, Advertising Agent, etc.

**Human Resources:** Human Resources Assistant, Occupational Analyst, Employment and Recruitment Specialists, Labor Relations Managers, Compensation and Benefits Specialist, Organizational Development Specialist, Staff Training & Development Managers, etc.

**How You Can Plan NOW for Success Later**

Psychology majors obtain specific skills, knowledge, and characteristics through completing their Psychology major requirements. Employers value these attributes in addition to academic performance and experiential learning. They seek them in prospective employees.

**Academic Performance:** A strong undergraduate GPA shows employers that you are able to focus on a topic, set goals, and achieve your goals.

**Course Selection:** Select your Psychology courses with an eye for future employment opportunities. Courses offered in other departments may provide additional critical knowledge and skills. If you are interested in finding a job in human/social services then it will be helpful to take courses in psychology, criminal justice, family law, and social work. If you want to work in a business setting, then it will be beneficial to take courses in accounting, marketing, and personnel selection and benefits. Once you have narrowed
down potential career paths, it is important to meet with an advisor to discuss course selection in line with your career objectives.

**Internships:** Internships give students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience within the field of psychology or a related field. Students can register for a Psychology Internship and receive 3 credits upon completion of the course. They can take a second semester, called Practicum, at the same or different setting.

**Research Opportunities:** Enrolling in Collaborative Research with a specific faculty member allows students to work alongside faculty members and graduate students in a research laboratory. Students may register for Collaborative Research for as many as four semesters (16 credits).

**Part-time jobs:** Positions that are relevant to your desired employment setting show employers you have the experience and abilities to execute the necessary job functions. For example, if you have worked in a rehabilitation center, the employer may be more likely to hire you as a substance abuse counselor over another individual who has the same course work, but does not have the experience you have working with this population.

**Networking:** Get to know people. This includes faculty members, instructors, graduate students, and your fellow classmates. Making a good impression is essential, as these connections may be beneficial when finding a job or applying to graduate school. It also helps to meet other students in activities outside the classroom, such as through the Psychology Majors Association.

**Leadership:** You can gain leadership experience by getting involved in Psi Chi and the Psychology Majors Association. These organizations provide students with practical experience in developing, organizing, and managing programs.

**From the Employer’s Perspective**

*Characteristics Rated Highly by Employers*

- High GPA
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to present oneself in a positive manner
- Relevant previous employment
- High enthusiasm
- Maximum flexibility
- High energy level
- Leadership skills and experience
- Problem solving skills
- Relevant course work for the desired position
- Knowledge about the position and the employer
**Knowledge Psychology Majors may have that Employers value**

- Classification categories for mental disorders (Psychopathology)
- Familiarity with mental health best treatment practices (Psychopathology)
- Understanding of how individuals at different life stages understand the world (Developmental Psychology)
- Knowledge about how attitudes and opinions are formed and changed (Social Psychology)
- Language to describe the structure and dynamics of small groups (Social Psychology)
- Understanding of how people think, process information and solve problems (Cognitive Psychology)
- Knowledge of the principles of human learning and memory (Cognitive Psychology)
- Understanding of the principles and techniques of personnel selection and organizational development (Industrial & Organizational Psychology)

**Abilities Psychology Majors have that Employers value**

- Ability to identify and solve problems based upon a deep understanding of human behavior and familiarity with research methods (All Psychology courses)
- Ability to speak articulately and persuasively using objective data to support arguments (Any Psychology course that requires repeated oral presentations)
- Ability to perform simple statistical analyses (Foundations in Statistical Methods)
- Ability to select, interpret, and evaluate scientific information (Scientific Thinking in Psychology)
- Ability to write proposals and reports (Scientific Thinking in Psychology & Capstone)
- Capacity to work productively as a team member (Any Psychology course that involves group work)

**Where You Can Go for Help**

**Undergraduate Advising in the Psychology Department:** The Undergraduate Advisor in the Psychology Department, Nicole Pileggi, is happy to assist students with career planning. Her office is located in Weiss Hall, room 605. She accepts both walk-ins and appointments. Feel free to contact her by email at nicole.pileggi@temple.edu or by phone at 215-204-3403. For more information, go to www.temple.edu/psychology/undergraduate/index.htm.

**Temple University Career Center:** The Career Center at Temple University assists students with resume and cover letter writing, interview preparation, professional dress, career coaching, and career assessment. This is a great resource for students as well as alumni. To find out more about career opportunities for Psychology majors, go to www.temple.edu/provost/careercenter/Students/documents/Psychology.pdf continued on next page...
Center for Internships and Career Development in the College of Liberal Arts: The Center for Internships and Career Development offers a variety of programs to undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts. These programs include internship and volunteer opportunities, community-based learning, career development and exploration tools, and career advising. For more information, go to www.cla.temple.edu/cicd

American Psychological Association: The American Psychological Association provides information about careers, working in the field, job outlook, and subfields of Psychology. For more information, go to www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers.aspx