

*What can I do with a major in...*

# Psychology

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Psychology, the study of behavior, is both a science and a profession. As a science it attempts to answer, through research, basic questions about behavior. As a profession it attempts to apply the knowledge and skills derived through this research to the identification and solution of behavioral problems. Some of the branches of specialization in this field are clinical, social, counseling, developmental, experimental, educational, physiological, personality, and industrial psychology.

Common entry-level positions for those with a bachelor's degree include case management in programs serving the mentally ill, persons with retardation, substance abusers, and those referred to court services units. Residential services positions offer opportunities to enter social service as well. Advancement to administrative positions or to licensure requires an advanced degree in social work, counseling, or specialized areas such as retardation services. While some masters degrees and licenses lead to independent practice in psychology, a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology is the norm. The PhD is also the norm for teaching at the college or university level.

Psychology has also proven to be a beneficial major for students planning a career in other professions such as law and medicine. Psychology majors have also found that their extensive training in methodology prepares them for research and assessment positions in research, business, and industry.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to psychology majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

## POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Advertising analyst  
Assistant account executive  
College/university admin.  
Community relations associate  
Computer programmer  
Crisis intervention counselor  
Developmental assistant  
Educational svcs. specialist  
Employee dev. specialist  
Event coordinator  
FBI agent  
Hospital administrator  
Job analyst  
Journalist  
Market research analyst  
Human resource specialist  
Peace corps volunteer  
Police officer  
Probation/parole officer  
Program coordinator  
Public relations manager  
Public survey worker

Recreation director  
Recruiter (school/employer)  
Research assistant  
Sales representative  
Statistician assistant  
Social/welfare worker  
Teacher (privately)  
Writer: business, trade, technical publications  
Youth probation officer

### **With Additional Education:**

Community organization director  
Lawyer

### Licensed Counselor:

guidance, rehabilitation,  
residence, substance  
abuse, vocational  
Occupational therapist  
Physician  
Psychometrician  
Psychiatrist

Psychologist:

clinical, counseling, developmental, educational,  
engineering, experimental, industrial, school, social  
Speech pathologist/audiologist  
Statistician

Teacher of handicapped, mentally retarded, learning  
disabled

### REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Adoptions and child care agencies  
Advertising agencies and departments  
Business corporations and industries  
College, schools, and educational institutions  
Community organizations  
Courts and correctional institutions

*Government agencies:*

Department of Defense  
Public Health Service  
Veterans Administration Hospitals

Research institutions  
Magazines, newspapers, and periodicals  
Market research departments and firms  
Non-profit organizations  
Personnel departments  
Professional and technical journals  
Public relations firms  
Test development corporations  
Think tanks  
Social service agencies

### WHERE DO UMW PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS GO?

#### EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Rappahannock Area Community Servicers Board
- Caldwell Theatre Company
- Stafford County Public Schools
- Town of Wenham, Massachusetts
- Powhatan Department of Social Services
- Reaching Potentials
- Family Preservation Services
- AmeriCorps/Cascadia Community College
- The Reger Group
- F&S International Education (Liaoning, China)
- Rappahannock Big Brothers Big Sisters

#### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- Alliant International University
- Clemson University
- College of William & Mary
- George Mason
- George Washington Law School
- Georgetown University
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Stony Brook University
- Texas A&M University
- University of California
- University of Georgia
- University of Maryland
- University of Virginia

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Psychological Association: [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
2. Association for Psychological Science: [www.psychologicalscience.org](http://www.psychologicalscience.org)
3. Association for Behavior Analysis: [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org)

*\*The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*