

23 PATHS TO THE PSYCH CAREER YOU ALWAYS WANTED!

HOT GROWTH AREA: INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

CHECK OUT THE HIGHEST PAYING POSITIONS IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

THINK OUT OF THE BOX TO YOUR FUTURE

FROM ENSURING the school success of children to promoting healthy lifestyle choices, from designing websites that work to managing engaged employees, psychology is, literally and figuratively, a growing force in the world. An understanding of human behavior is as relevant to maintaining a strong military as it is to developing devices and machines that people want to use. Psychology, in short, is everywhere—which means that there are many ways to apply it today.

While there will always be a need for direct clinical services to patients, and for research into the brain and behavior, the number of ways to deploy a knowledge of psychology in the world is rapidly expanding. If you are considering a career in psychology—and is there a more fascinating area of study than the possibilities and problems of human behavior?—it's time to think outside the therapeutic box, beyond the waiting room and beyond the research lab. Not to give short shrift to animal behavior, given an increasing demand for animal trainers and conservationists.

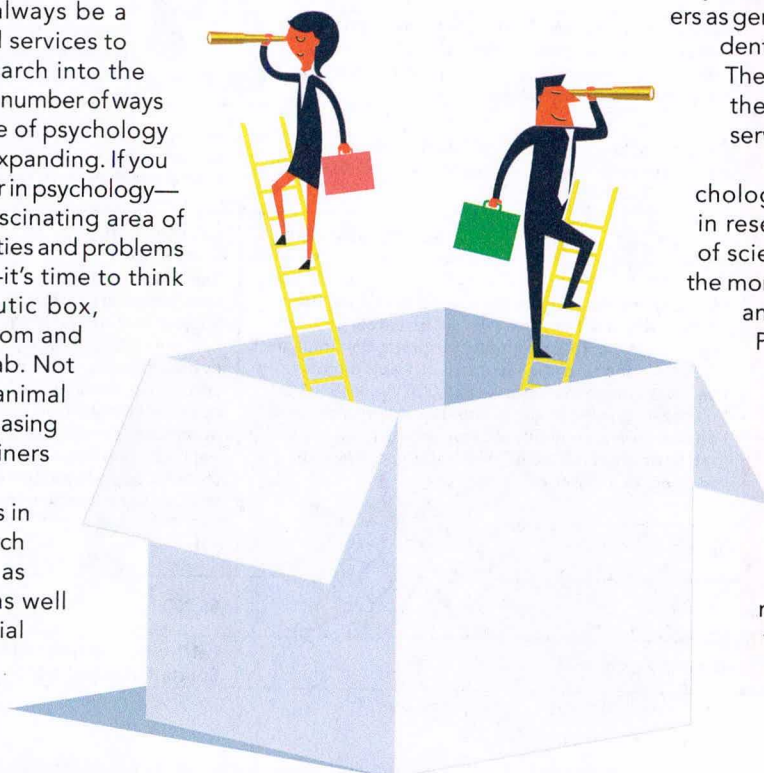
Today, career paths in psychology lead into such nontherapeutic arenas as business and design as well as health care and social work. Companies

today understand that human capital is as much an asset as financial capital, and enlightened companies put effort into cultivating a creative and engaged workforce because they see it as fundamental to bottom-line success. Still, relying on the talents and engagement of an increasingly diverse workforce puts extra demands on management. With their behavioral expertise, psychologists are in demand to run and staff human resource departments; they are integral to employee selection, training and

career development, and performance evaluation.

Those with undergraduate degrees in psychology can look forward to careers in marketing and sales, as human resource associates, as rehabilitation specialists, and as substance abuse counselors. Having a master's degree opens more doors in the counseling field, for social workers, educational and mental health counselors, and marital and family therapists, as well as doors to management positions. Those on the therapeutic path may work for large health-care providers as genetics counselors or independently delivering psychotherapy. They also find work in schools, in the court system, prisons, and service agencies.

Doctoral degrees in psychology are the ticket to careers in research. And while the future of science funding is uncertain at the moment, research into the brain and behavior has been strong. Pursuit of understanding the causes of cognitive decline, for example, is especially important in a population with a growing number of elderly persons. On the therapeutic side, the steady advance of neurotechnologies is also fueling continuing growth in demand for neuropsychologists.




26%

Industrial/Organizational Psychologists can look forward to a substantial 26 percent increase in jobs across America through 2018.

Nearly **1 in 3** psychologists were self-employed in 2013.

DEGREES OF DISTINCTION

HERE'S THE ULTIMATE SCORECARD TO PREPARE FOR A REWARDING CAREER IN PSYCHOLOGY.

DEGREE TYPE	MEDICAL (M.D.)	DOCTORATE (PSY.D., PH.D., ED.D.)
HOW LONG IT TAKES	7–9 years	3–7 years
CAREER OPTIONS	Psychiatrist (Researcher or Clinician), Professor	Psychologist (Researcher or Clinician), Professor, Educational Administrator
SPECIALTY FIELDS	 Addiction, Adult, Child/Pediatric, Geriatric, Forensic, Neuropsychiatry, Psychopharmacology	Child, Clinical, Cognitive, Community, Consumer, Counseling, Developmental, Educational, Engineering, Environmental, Evolutionary, Family, Forensic, Gerontology, Health, Industrial/Organizational, Media, Military, Neuropsychology, Psychometry, Rehabilitation, Sports
TYPICAL PREREQUISITES	Premed background in biology, physics, chemistry, and calculus; MCAT; volunteer or research work	GRE; GRE Subject Test in Psychology; exposure to research. Ph.D. applicants usually need to have taken a statistics course.
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	Internship, residency, additional training in specialties (i.e., forensic, child/adolescent, psychoanalysis), state licensure	Research, dissertation, internship, and practicum. Licensure is required for those looking to go into private practice.
WHAT IT COSTS (ANNUALLY)	\$31,780 – \$57,260	\$16,000 (\$7,000 in-state) – \$42,690
CAN I GET MY DEGREE ONLINE?	Only some required courses can be completed online.	Yes
CAN I KEEP MY DAY JOB WHILE I PURSUE MY DEGREE?	No. (Sorry.)	Yes. It'll take a lot longer, but some universities offer part-time tracks for students who wish to work part- or full-time.
MOST IN-DEMAND POSITION	Child and Geriatric Psychiatrists	Clinical, Counseling, Health Care, School Psychologist, Industrial/Organizational Psychologist, Neuropsychologist
HIGHEST PAYING POSITION	Home Health Care Services	Industrial/Organizational Psychologist
WHAT THEY DO	Assess, diagnose, and treat brain and behavioral disturbances; prescribe medication; conduct research	Conduct research, administer psychometric testing, treat clients on individual and group bases, teach, counsel, consult
WHAT IT TAKES	Ability to stay composed under stress, interest in the human mind and behavior, listening skills, interpersonal skills, conscientiousness, punctuality, trustworthiness, detail oriented, problem-solving skills	Analytical skills, interpersonal skills, a knack for problem solving, patience, a strong eye for observation, trustworthiness, resourcefulness
WHERE YOU'LL FIND THEM	Private practice, clinics, mental health facilities, outpatient care centers, hospitals, colleges and universities	Academic settings, private practice, private consulting services, government agencies, clinics, hospitals, community mental health centers, rehabilitation facilities
WHAT THEY EARN (ANNUALLY)	\$67,100–\$265,000+	\$67,650 – \$145,500
HOW TO GET STARTED	Most psychiatrists pursue a premed track during their undergrad years. For those who switch career paths postcollege, postbaccalaureate programs that train grad students in the hard sciences can be a viable alternative. These range from around \$25,000 to over \$50,000. Volunteering in the health profession during undergrad and interim years is highly recommended. Most important, however, is the MCAT, which students should begin prepping for in college.	The vast majority of Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs require a background in psychology, as well as the GRE and GRE Subject Test in Psychology. Internships and research in the field are major pluses. If you don't already have an undergrad degree in psych, take continuing education courses in theory and statistics and secure a volunteer or internship position at a mental health care facility or research center. Attending open houses and contacting admissions offices are your best bet for finding out what you'll need to proceed. Many students apply to schools at which a researcher they'd like to study under teaches or works.
PROJECTED JOB GROWTH OVER THE NEXT DECADE	16.2%	19%
PROJECTED JOB OPENINGS OVER THE NEXT DECADE	11,200	55,900
UNUSUAL CAREER PATHS	Disaster Psychiatrist	Pet Psychologist (Animal Behaviorist), Sports Psychologist, Military Psychologist

The average salary of psychiatrists employed by state governments is

\$198,730

26,834

master's degrees in psychology were awarded in the U.S. in 2012.

Approximately **1.5 million** undergraduates a year take a course in psychology.

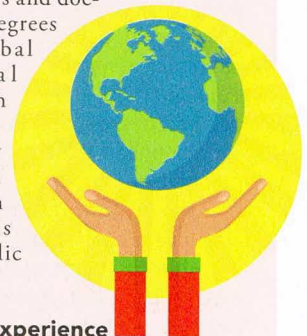
MIND EXPANSION

It's time to think psychology in unusual settings. Here are two of many new ways to put expertise into practice.

Global Mental Health Expert

If nothing else, the ongoing civil and military crisis in Syria—turning citizen against citizen, displacing millions of people within the country, and sending refugees to surrounding countries and, often, further afield—has focused attention on the mental health needs of population groups around the world. Organizations like the World Health Organization, the Movement for Global Mental Health, and the United Nations are especially active in supporting the mental health of children and adults in times of crisis, such as conflict and natural disasters. Global Mental Health, and programs that train those seeking careers in the global arena, also pay attention to the effects of poverty and to mental illness across all social classes.

Master's and doctoral degrees in global mental health are typically offered through schools of public health.



User Experience

In an increasingly digital world, human-computer interaction is highly significant, and companies do not leave the nature of that interaction to chance. The goal of designing machines, applications, and websites that work for people, and not the other way around, bears the collective designation user experience, often referred to as UX. In order to create a digital presence that is intuitive and easy to use, developers have to understand the basics of human behavior, especially the intricacies of human motivation and decision-making. Those headed for a career in user experience combine courses in psychology and computer science, often in master's-level programs. Graduates typically spend some time doing direct field research with people who use their company's products.

MASTER'S (M.S.W., M.F.T., M.H.C., M.ED.)	BACHELOR'S (B.A., B.S., B.S.W.)
1–3 years	3–4 years
Social Worker, Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist	Child Life Specialist, Counselor, Recruiter, Research Assistant, Human Resources Manager, Sales Representative, Substance Abuse Counselor
Art, Career, Crisis Management, Disability, Exercise, Family, Genetic Counseling, Geriatric, Grief, Life Coaching, Marriage and Family, Occupational Therapist, Public Health, Rehabilitation, School, Substance Abuse, Suicide Intervention, Veterans, Victim Advocate	Career, Human Resources, Market Research, Sales, School, Special Education, Substance Abuse Services
Some, but not all, master's programs require a GRE.	SAT, SAT Subject Test
Internship, licensure (to receive health care reimbursement) + 2,000 – 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, research	Some certifications and training may be required for specific job types (i.e., health educators and teachers).
\$4,969 – \$42,480	\$4,760 (in-state) – \$48,700
Yes	Yes
Yes. Many graduate students maintain full- or part-time positions while working toward a master's degree in social work, counseling, or marriage and family therapy.	If you're pursuing a part-time or online path, yes.
Health Care Social Worker, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, Mental Health Counselor	Administrative/Executive Assistant, Compensation and Benefits Manager, Training and Development Specialist, Recruitment Specialist, Sales Associate
Human Resources Manager, School Counselor	Human Resources Associate
Diagnose and treat psychological disturbances; provide group, family, couples, and individual therapy or counseling; assist clients with obtaining federal or state benefits; identify and intervene in child abuse; procure foster family and adoption services	Counsel job-seekers about career paths, work in school administrations, recruit clients for businesses, assist in academic or market research, work in sales or administration
Empathy, listening skills, interpersonal skills, organization and time-management skills, a knack for problem solving, patience, speaking skills	Interpersonal skills, conscientiousness, punctuality, empathy, speaking skills
Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, schools, colleges and universities, home health care services, government agencies, employee assistance programs, nursing and residential care facilities, legal and correctional systems	Administrative offices, schools and academic settings, some legal settings, some government agencies, advertising agencies, market research firms, nonprofit organizations, private companies
\$40,000 – \$75,140	\$25,000 – \$125,940
Many master's programs in counseling and social work don't require a background in psychology, though exposure to the field is obviously a plus. Volunteer work in the mental health profession is highly recommended. If need be, you can take continuing education courses to meet the prerequisites most grad programs in psych require. (Think: statistics, child development, abnormal psychology, and developmental psychology.) But typically, the main hurdle is deciding which type of degree and career path (i.e., counselor versus social worker) best fits you.	For undergrads or high schoolers interested in studying psych from a more data-driven and research angle, try looking for schools that offer Bachelor of Science degrees. Those interested in psychology and its application to other fields (i.e., law, politics, business, or the creative arts) may be better suited for a Bachelor of Arts.
22%	8% – 21%
19,600 – 50,200	109,500 – 302,000
Product Design/Engineering Psychologist	FBI Behavioral Analyst