

B.A. in PSYCHOLOGY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><u>Human Services</u> Counseling Advocacy Mental Health Services Case Management Programming Community Relations Administration</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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/Big 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 (that you can document) - 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
<u>RESEARCH</u>	Federal Government, including: Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of Education National Institutes of Health Office of Naval Research National headquarters of non-profit organizations Universities and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pursue an excellent academic record - Work with a professor on his or her research projects - Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills - Consider summer research opportunities abroad (fellowships, etc.) - Obtain a graduate degree for greater opportunities
<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 (consider a minor) - Acquire strong computer skills
<u>PUBLIC RELATIONS</u> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>ADVERTISING</u> Creative Media Account Services Research	Advertising agencies Companies with in-house advertising agencies or departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
<u>MARKET RESEARCH</u>	Market research firms Market research departments of consumer goods and manufacturing firms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a strong background in math and statistics - Get involved in the American Marketing Association - Obtain related experience via 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
<u>TEACHING</u>	Public and private schools Colleges and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain teaching certificate for public school positions. Dual certification will increase marketability - Seek guidance from Education Department - Secure strong personal recommendations - Volunteer as a tutor - Gain experience working with children and/or adolescents - PhD required for post-secondary teaching
<u>RETAILING</u> Management	Department stores Specialty stores Discount stores Super retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>SALES</u>	Retailers Service providers Wholesalers Manufacturers Insurance companies Real estate companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

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/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, though 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**, make sure you do the following: maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer or work opportunities. Assisting faculty members with their research also provides valuable experience.