PSYCHOLOGY
What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

HUMAN SERVICES
Direct Care:
- Counseling
- Psychotherapy
- Case Management
- Mental Health Services
- Physical Health and Wellness
- Crisis Work
- Art Therapy
- Music Therapy

Administration:
- Advocacy
- Programming
- Community Relations
- Management
- Development/Fund Raising
- Grant Writing

EMPLOYERS

Federal government, including Departments of:
- Health and Human Services
- Veterans Administration
- VA Hospitals

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
- Social service/nonprofit organizations
- Religiously-affiliated service organizations
- Hospitals/healthcare providers
- Private psychiatric facilities
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)
- College and university counseling centers
- Private practice

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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 and internships 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 to serve clients who may not speak English.
- Be willing to relocate for increased job opportunities.
- 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 positions involving substantive counseling or psychotherapy or for advancement into administrative/supervisory positions.
- Many specialties exist at the graduate level, for example school counseling, mental health counseling, counseling psychology, etc. Pursue particular degrees depending upon interests and career goals.
- See General Information on the last page for more details on this topic.
- Maintain an excellent academic record and seek experiences valued by graduate programs.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH</strong></td>
<td>Federal, state and local government agencies</td>
<td>Work with a professor on his or her research project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Research</td>
<td>National headquarters of non-profit organizations</td>
<td>Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills. Take additional math and statistics courses.</td>
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<td>Market Research</td>
<td>Universities and colleges</td>
<td>Obtain a graduate degree for greater opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>Market research firms</td>
<td>Obtain related experience. Get a part-time or summer field service position with a market research firm.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Market research departments of consumer goods and manufacturing firms</td>
<td>Get involved in the American Marketing Association.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
<td>Earn a graduate degree in psychology, statistics or marketing for the greatest number of opportunities.</td>
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Public and private K-12 schools</td>
<td>Obtain a teaching certificate for public school positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Multiple certification will increase marketability. Seek guidance from the education department of your college.</td>
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<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>Community instruction offered by government or social service agencies e.g. GED classes, life skills, parenting, etc.</td>
<td>Earn a doctoral degree for post-secondary teaching.</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Secure strong personal recommendations.</td>
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<td>Training</td>
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<td>Volunteer or work as a tutor.</td>
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<td>Adult Learning</td>
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<td>Gain experience working with children or adolescents.</td>
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<td>Acquire related experience on campus as a resident hall advisor, orientation leader, admissions tour guide, or peer mentor.</td>
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<td>Develop strong communication skills and learn to speak well in front of a group.</td>
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<td><strong>HUMAN RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td>Large companies</td>
<td>Gain revelant experience in human resources by completing an internship.</td>
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<td>Employment and Recruitment</td>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business courses.</td>
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<td>Labor Relations</td>
<td>Staffing and employment services</td>
<td>Seek leadership positions in student organizations.</td>
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<td>Compensation and Benefits</td>
<td>Large non-profit organizations including hospitals and educational institutions</td>
<td>Develop strong computer skills.</td>
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<td>Organizational Development</td>
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<td>Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in human resources to attain higher level positions.</td>
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<td>Training</td>
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<td><strong>BUSINESS &amp; INDUSTRY</strong></td>
<td>Service providers</td>
<td>Develop career goals and seek relevant experiences to prepare for those goals.</td>
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<td>Sales</td>
<td>Wholesalers</td>
<td>Earn a minor in business or supplement curriculum with business or communication courses.</td>
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<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Obtain relevant experience through internships or part-time jobs.</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Retail stores including:</td>
<td>Work a part-time or summer job in a retail store.</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
<td>Department stores</td>
<td>Demonstrate a willingness to take on additional responsibilities such as “assistant manager.”</td>
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<td>Claims Management</td>
<td>Specialty stores</td>
<td>Participate in student organizations and seek leadership roles.</td>
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<td>Underwriting</td>
<td>Discount stores</td>
<td>Learn to work well with different types of people. Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.</td>
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<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>Super retailers</td>
<td>For sales, develop the ability to work well under pressure and be comfortable in a competitive environment.</td>
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<td>Sales</td>
<td>Online retailers</td>
<td>Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.</td>
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<td>Property Management</td>
<td>Call centers</td>
<td>When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring “any major.”</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Financial institutions</td>
<td>Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork, etc.</td>
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<td>Real estate companies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Property management firms</td>
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<td>Apartment complexes</td>
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<td>Public relations departments of large</td>
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<td>businesses or nonprofit organizations</td>
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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. Research career fields to learn what type of degree (master's or doctoral) and subject area are most appropriate. The following list provides some examples:

  **Master's Degree**
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker
  - Professional Counselor
  - Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors
  - Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors
  - Rehabilitation Counselors
  - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists

  **Doctoral Degree**
  - Counseling Psychologist
  - Licensed Clinical Psychologist
  - Experimental Psychologist
  - School Psychologist
  - Sport Psychologist
  - Industrial/Organizational Psychologist

• 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.