

CAREERS FOR PSYCH MAJORS

ACADEMIC / RESEARCH-BASED TOPICS:

NUMEROUS RESEARCH SPECIALTIES EXIST, INCLUDING:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Sensory and Perceptual Processes
- Physiological / Biopsychology
- Personality / Social Psychology
- Developmental Psychology

MAJOR AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT INCLUDE:

University, Business/Industry, Medical/Pharmaceutical, Military, Government

APPLIED / PROFESSIONAL FIELDS:

HUMAN FACTORS / ENGINEERING PSYCHOLOGY – Studying relations between machines, technology, and human behavior.

INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY – Develop personnel selection systems, provide training, and improve job satisfaction and performance. Grad school emphasizes statistics.

CLINICAL / COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY – Interest in cause, assessment, prevention, and treatment of mental health problems. Many options available in therapy/helping careers, medical consultation, evaluation, and others. This is also the starting point for most pursuing forensic or sports psych.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY – Assessment and consultation of school related problems and disorders. Work closely with teachers and school systems. Strong career prospects.

AGING AND ADULT DEVELOPMENT – Research and applied work to understand problems of older adults and implement educational, learning, and policy-related programs.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY – Assessment and treatment of patients with brain illness or injury. Strong career prospects at doctoral level.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – Research and applied work using psych knowledge to improve or implement health behavior change and treatment programs for a broad range of medical problems (e.g., cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes management).

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS – Develop and implement behavioral change programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, maladaptive behaviors, or other concerns.

MANY MORE – There are myriad psychology-relevant paths not listed here, and lots of interdisciplinary opportunities out there! Learn more: <https://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers>

NOTE REGARDING SALARY AND FLEXIBILITY:

Most professional/applied areas will require at least a master's degree (MA, MS). Outcomes with highest mobility, independence, and salary require a doctoral degree (PhD, PsyD).