

# Graduate Employment Settings and Debt Information

## Employment Statistics:

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for Psychologists-2019*

- 31% were self employed
- 24% worked elementary/secondary schools
- 18% worked ambulatory healthcare services
- 9% worked in government
- 6% worked in hospital settings

In the *2009 Doctorate Employment Survey* conducted by the APA it was found that 72% of all (not just clinical) 3,681 psychologists surveyed who earned their doctorates in 2008-2009 secured their first choice when looking for a job. 73% of the respondents were employed before or within three months of graduating. As of 2009, about more than a quarter (28.4%) of doctoral-level psychologists are employed in universities, and 19.9% continue onto some form of school or academic setting.

According to the *2009 Doctorate Employment Survey*, 15% of *clinical* psychology doctorate recipients were employed in university settings. 2.8% were employed in four-year colleges.

## Salaries

- Average yearly salary for licensed doctoral-level clinical psychologists (with either degree) working full-time (35+ hours/week) was \$82,180 in 2020. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm#tab-5>
- The longer one has practiced, the more money one typically makes.

## Ph.D vs PsyD and Debt

### What's the difference?

Psychologists with a Ph.D qualify for a wide range of teaching, research, clinical, and counseling positions in universities, health care services, elementary and secondary schools, private industry, and government. Degree culminates in a dissertation based on original research.

Psychologists with a PsyD. degree usually work in clinical positions or in private practices, but they also sometimes teach, conduct research, or carry out administrative responsibilities. Degree usually culminates with practical work and examinations instead of a dissertation.

### Tuition, & Debt

Average annual tuition costs to earn your doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology in 2016:

Public-in state: \$11,000

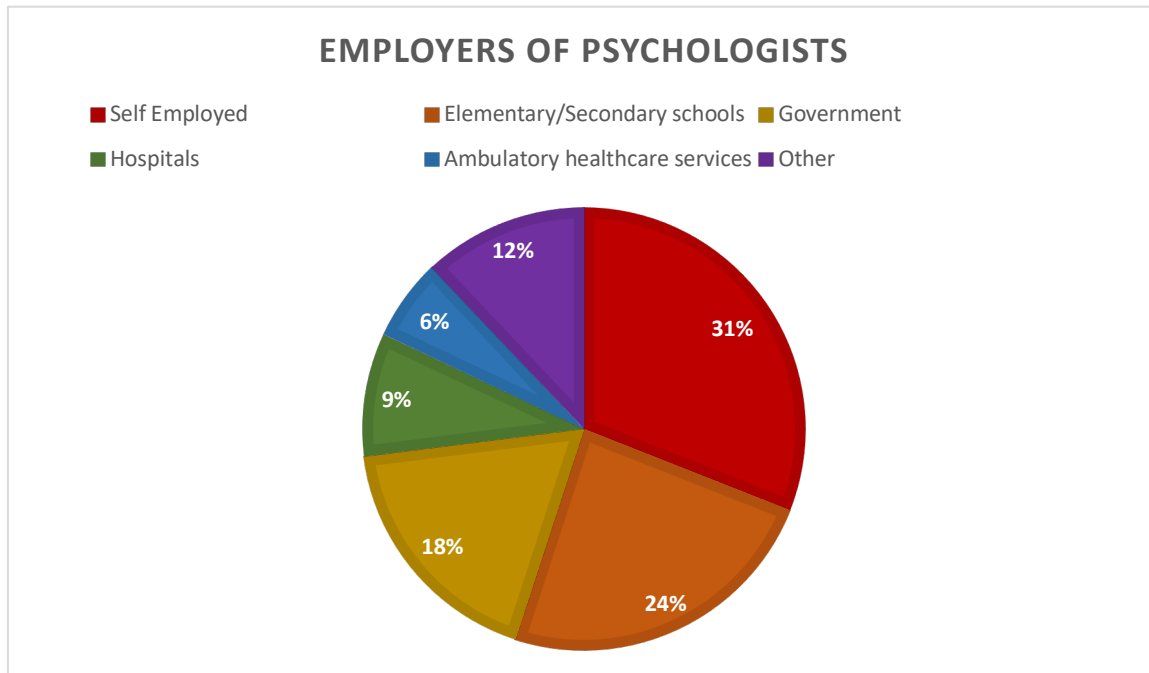
Public-out of state: \$24,000

Private: \$34,000

The APA did a survey in 2016 of individuals that had completed either a masters or doctoral degrees within the last 10 years. The APA found that 76% of individuals reported debt from their graduate training with a mean debt of \$99,000. The amount of debt can be significantly affected by different degree types and subfields. Individuals with PhDs accrued an average of \$78,000 in debt, whereas those with a PsyD had \$146,000. This difference can most likely be

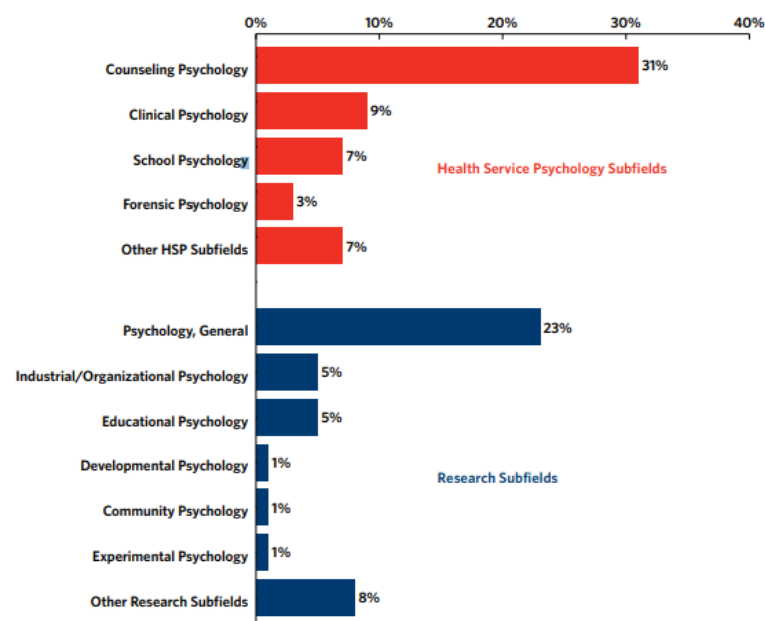
attributed to the difference in financial assistance by the programs.

PsyD. programs typically have easier admission criteria, but they provide less financial assistance than PhD programs (75% versus 18% of students receive aid). University-based departmental programs tend to offer more aid than university professional schools or freestanding programs. PsyD. programs are typically “pay as you go” while PhD programs are typically paid after one is engaged in full-time practice.



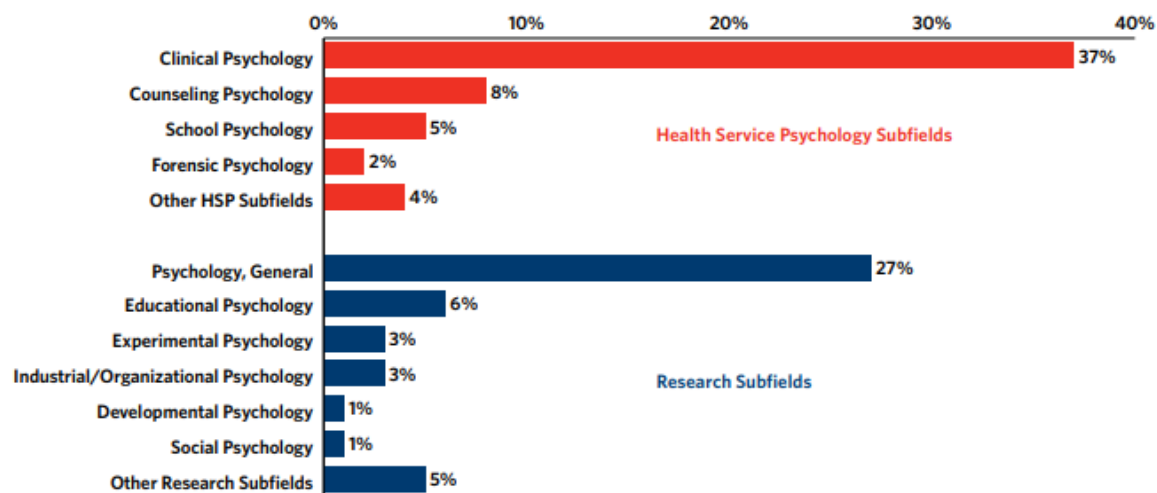
**Chart made according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2019 Data**

FIGURE 6.  
PSYCHOLOGY MASTER'S DEGREES AWARDED IN HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY (HSP) AND  
RESEARCH SUBFIELDS, 2017



Source: IPEDS Completions Survey (2017)

FIGURE 4.  
PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORATES AWARDED IN HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY AND RESEARCH  
SUBFIELDS, 2017

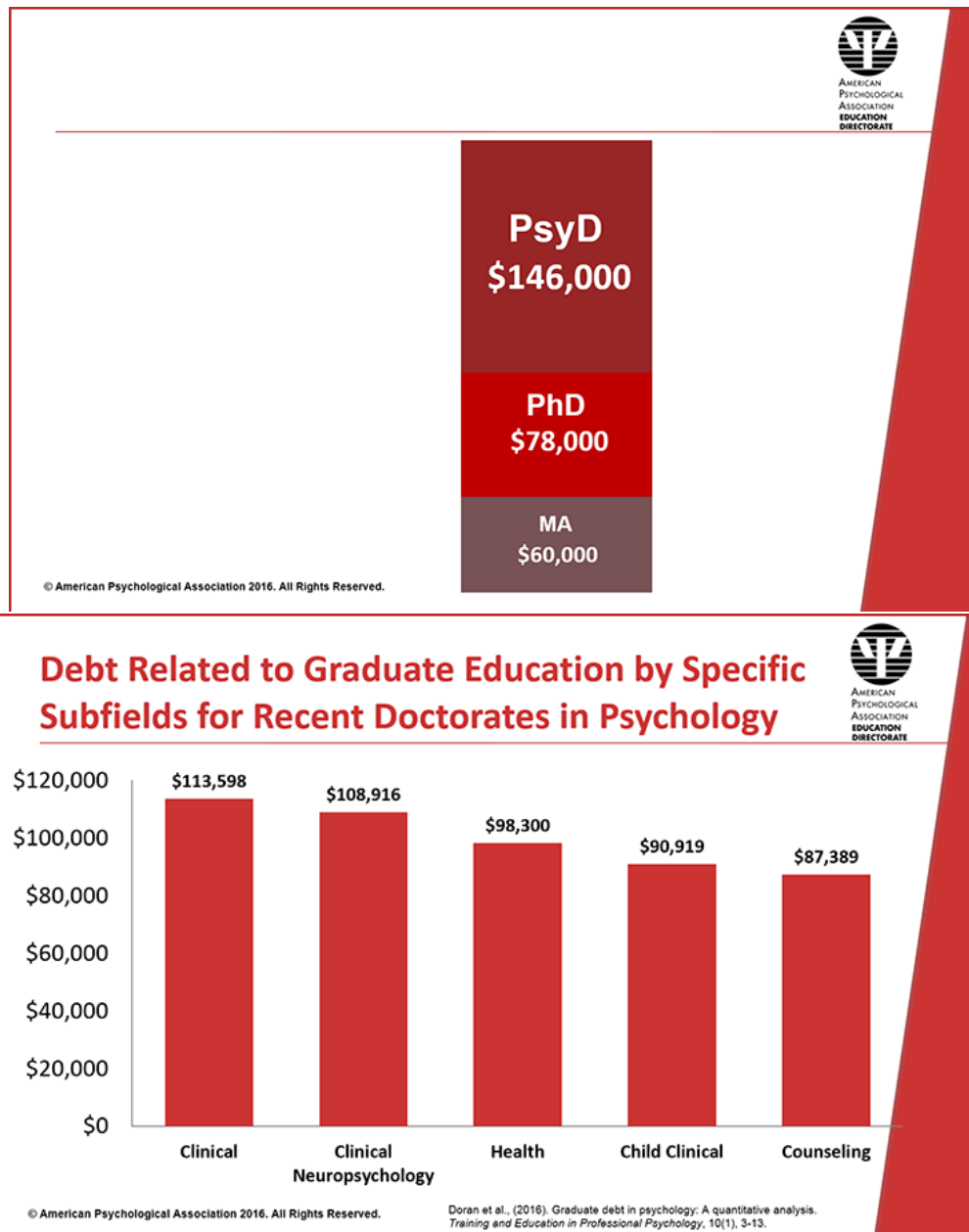


Source: IPEDS Completions Survey (2017)

<sup>a</sup> IPEDs defines the "Psychology, General" subfield as "a general program that focuses on the scientific study of individual and collective behavior, the physical and environmental bases of behavior, and the analysis and treatment of behavior problems and disorders. Includes instruction in the principles of the various subfields of psychology, research methods, and psychological assessment and testing methods."

<https://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/2017-postsecondary-data/report.pdf>

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/04/cover-debt-trap>



## **More Information:**

### **American Psychological Association**

<http://www.apa.org>

- <https://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/09-doc-empl/report.pdf>
- 2008-2017 Master's and Doctoral Degrees Awarded in Psychology
- <https://www.apa.org/education-career/grad/faqs>

### **US Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics—Occupational Outlook Handbook**

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm#tab-3>

<https://www.apa.org/apags/resources/debt.pdf>

### **Other Sources**

#### **Psi Chi: The National Honor Society in Psychology**

[http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article\\_171.asp](http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_171.asp)

#### **All Psychology Schools**

<http://www.allpsychologyschools.com/faqs/clinical-psychology.php>