

Job outlook (<http://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers.aspx>)

Psychology graduates generally report being pleased with the way what they studied in school helped prepare them for both life and work. A woman who opened her own business shortly after earning a baccalaureate in psychology explains, "After all, psychology is the business of life." Psychology graduates continue to be excited by the changes taking place in the field that relate to what they are now doing.

The 2001 Doctorate Employment Survey from APA's Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research (CPWAR) found that 73% of the 1,754 responding psychologists who earned their doctorates in 2000-2001 secured their first choice when looking for a job. In addition, 75% of respondents were employed within 3 months of receiving the doctorate.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects that opportunities in psychology will continue to grow over the next decade. "Employment in health care will grow fastest in outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment clinics. Numerous job opportunities will also arise in schools, public and private social service agencies, and management consulting services. Companies will use psychologists' expertise in survey design, analysis, and research to provide marketing evaluation and statistical analysis. The increase in employee assistance programs, which offer employees help with personal problems, also should spur job growth.

Opportunities for people holding doctorates from leading universities in areas with an applied emphasis, such as counseling, health, and educational psychology, should be good. Psychologists with extensive training in quantitative research methods and computer science may have a competitive edge over applicants without this background.

Graduates with a master's degree in psychology may qualify for positions in school and industrial-organizational psychology. School psychology should have the best job prospects, as schools are expected to increase student counseling and mental health services. Master's degree holders with several years of business and industry experience can obtain jobs in consulting and marketing research, while other master's degree holders may find jobs in universities, government or the private sector as psychological assistants, counselors, researchers, data collectors, and analysts.

Doctoral graduates

As might be expected, the highest paid and greatest range of jobs in psychology are available to psychology doctorates. The number of doctoral graduates has remained stable over the past decade, and supply continues to meet demand. Unemployment and underemployment remain below what is noted for other scientists and engineers. Few drop out of the field.

The greatest expansion of career opportunities for doctoral psychologists in the last decade has been in the for-profit and self-employment sectors, including, but not limited to, health service provider subfields, industrial-organizational psychology, educational psychology, and other fields with applications in these settings. Although fewer new doctorates have headed into faculty positions compared to past decades, it is the case that about one third of

doctoral-level psychologists today are employed in academe, and more than half of new doctorates in the research subfields head into academe following graduation.

Master's graduates

While the doctoral degree is the standard for independent research or practice in psychology, the number of psychology students who pursue a terminal master's degree has increased sixfold since 1960. Competition for positions in psychology-related jobs is keen. Just over one fifth of master's graduates are full-time students, and about two thirds of master's graduates are employed outside psychology. Many handle research and data collection and analysis in universities, government, and private companies. Others find jobs in health, industry, and education, the primary work settings for psychology professionals with master's degrees. With growing recognition of the role of psychology in the community, more jobs for persons with master's degrees in psychology may also become available in community mental health centers.

Persons with master's degrees often work under the direction of a doctoral psychologist, especially in clinical, counseling, school, and testing and measurement psychology.

Some jobs in industry, for example, in organizational development and survey research, are held by both doctoral- and master's-level graduates. But industry and government jobs in compensation, training, data analysis, and general personnel issues are often filled by those with master's degrees in psychology.

Bachelor's graduates

In 2002–2003 psychology was the most popular intended undergraduate major according to a survey of college freshman. As a single field and not a constellation of fields, such as is true of business, biology, or education, psychology outdrew all other fields. In 2000, 74,654 students graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Some students stop with a bachelor's degree in psychology and find work related to their college major. For example, they may be assistants in rehabilitation centers. If they meet state certification requirements, they may be able to teach psychology in high school.

But the study of psychology at the bachelor's level is also a fine preparation for many other professions. In 2000, about 75,000 college seniors graduated with a degree in psychology, but many were not necessarily interested in a career as a psychologist.

In 1999, fewer than 5% of 1997 and 1998 psychology BA recipients were employed in psychology or a field related to psychology. Of the 1997 and 1998 BA graduates in 1999, two thirds were in for-profit business settings, usually the sales/service sector. These students often possess good research and writing skills, are good problem solvers, and have well-developed, higher-level thinking ability when it comes to analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information. Most find jobs in administrative support, public affairs, education, business, sales, service industries, health, the biological sciences, and computer programming. They work as employment counselors, correction

counselor trainees, interviewers, personnel analysts, probation officers, and writers. Two thirds believe their job is closely or somewhat related to their psychology background and that their jobs hold career potential.

Some of the subfields in psychology (www.apa.org)

Psychologists specialize in a host of different areas within the field and identify themselves by many different labels. A sampling of those focal areas is presented to give you an idea of the breadth of psychology's content as well as the many different settings in which it is found. Additionally, many psychologists teach psychology in academic institutions from high schools to graduate programs in universities.

The field of psychology encompasses both research, through which we learn fundamental things about human and animal behavior, and practice, through which that knowledge is applied in helping to solve problems and promote healthy human development. In each of the subfields there are psychologists who work primarily as researchers, others who work primarily as practitioners, and many who do both (scientist-practitioners). Indeed, one of psychology's most unique and important characteristics is its coupling of science and practice, which stimulates continual advancement of both.

Clinical psychologists

Clinical psychologists assess and treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. These range from short-term crises, such as difficulties resulting from adolescent rebellion, to more severe, chronic conditions such as schizophrenia.

Some clinical psychologists treat specific problems exclusively, such as phobias or clinical depression. Others focus on specific populations: youngsters, ethnic minority groups, gays and lesbians, and the elderly, for instance. They also consult with physicians on physical problems that have underlying psychological causes.

Cognitive and perceptual psychologists

Cognitive and perceptual psychologists study human perception, thinking, and memory. Cognitive psychologists are interested in questions such as, how does the mind represent reality? How do people learn? How do people understand and produce language? Cognitive psychologists also study reasoning, judgment, and decision making. Cognitive and perceptual psychologists frequently collaborate with behavioral neuroscientists to understand the biological bases of perception or cognition or with researchers in other areas of psychology to better understand the cognitive biases in the thinking of people with depression, for example.

Counseling psychologists

Counseling psychologists help people recognize their strengths and resources to cope with their problems. Counseling psychologists do counseling/psychotherapy, teaching, and scientific research with individuals of all ages, families, and organizations (e.g., schools, hospitals, businesses). Counseling psychologists help people understand and take action on career and work problems. They pay attention to how problems and people differ across life stages. Counseling psychologists have great respect for the influence of differences among people (such as race,

gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability status) on psychological well-being. They believe that behavior is affected by many things, including qualities of the individual (e.g., psychological, physical, or spiritual factors) and factors in the person's environment (e.g., family, society, and cultural groups)

Developmental psychologists

Developmental psychologists study the psychological development of the human being that takes place throughout life. Until recently, the primary focus was on childhood and adolescence, the most formative years. But as life expectancy in this country approaches 80 years, developmental psychologists are becoming increasingly interested in aging, especially in researching and developing ways to help elderly people stay as independent as possible.

Educational psychologists

Educational psychologists concentrate on how effective teaching and learning take place. They consider a variety of factors, such as human abilities, student motivation, and the effect on the classroom of the diversity of race, ethnicity, and culture that makes up America.

Engineering psychologists

Engineering psychologists conduct research on how people work best with machines. For example, how can a computer be designed to prevent fatigue and eye strain? What arrangement of an assembly line makes production most efficient? What is a reasonable workload? Most engineering psychologists work in industry, but some are employed by the government, particularly the Department of Defense. They are often known as human factors specialists.

Evolutionary psychologists

Evolutionary psychologists study how evolutionary principles such as mutation, adaptation, and selective fitness influence human thought, feeling, and behavior. Because of their focus on genetically shaped behaviors that influence an organism's chances of survival, evolutionary psychologists study mating, aggression, helping behavior, and communication. Evolutionary psychologists are particularly interested in paradoxes and problems of evolution. For example, some behaviors that were highly adaptive in our evolutionary past may no longer be adaptive in the modern world.

Experimental psychologists

Experimental psychologists are interested in a wide range of psychological phenomena, including cognitive processes, comparative psychology (cross-species comparisons), learning and conditioning, and psychophysics (the relationship between the physical brightness of a light and how bright the light is perceived to be, for example).

Experimental psychologists study both human and nonhuman animals with respect to their abilities to detect what is happening in a particular environment and to acquire and maintain responses to what is happening.

Experimental psychologists work with the empirical method (collecting data) and the manipulation of variables within the laboratory as a way of understanding certain phenomena and advancing scientific knowledge. In addition to working in academic settings, experimental psychologists work in places as diverse as manufacturing settings, zoos, and engineering firms.

Forensic psychologists

Forensic psychologists apply psychological principles to legal issues. Their expertise is often essential in court. They can, for example, help a judge decide which parent should have custody of a child or evaluate a defendant's mental competence to stand trial. Forensic psychologists also conduct research on jury behavior or eyewitness testimony. Some forensic psychologists are trained in both psychology and the law.

Health psychologists

Health psychologists specialize in how biological, psychological, and social factors affect health and illness. They study how patients handle illness; why some people don't follow medical advice; and the most effective ways to control pain or to change poor health habits. They also develop health care strategies that foster emotional and physical well-being.

Psychologists team up with medical personnel in private practice and in hospitals to provide patients with complete health care. They educate medical staff about psychological problems that arise from the pain and stress of illness and about symptoms that may seem to be physical in origin but actually have psychological causes.

Health psychologists also investigate issues that affect a large segment of society, and develop and implement programs to deal with these problems. Examples are teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors, smoking, lack of exercise, and poor diet.

Industrial/organizational psychologists

Industrial/organizational psychologists apply psychological principles and research methods to the work place in the interest of improving productivity and the quality of work life. Many serve as human resources specialists, helping organizations with staffing, training, and employee development. And others work as management consultants in such areas as strategic planning, quality management, and coping with organizational change.

Neuropsychologists

Neuropsychologists (and behavioral neuropsychologists) explore the relationships between brain systems and behavior. For example, behavioral neuropsychologists may study the way the brain creates and stores memories, or how various diseases and injuries of the brain affect emotion, perception, and behavior. They design tasks to study normal brain functions with new imaging techniques, such as positron emission tomography (PET), single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Clinical neuropsychologists also assess and treat people. And with the dramatic increase in the number of survivors of traumatic brain injury over the past 30 years, neuropsychologists are working with health teams to help brain-injured people resume productive lives.

Quantitative and measurement psychologists

Quantitative and measurement psychologists focus on methods and techniques for designing experiments and analyzing psychological data. Some develop new methods for performing analysis; others create research strategies to assess the effect of social and educational programs and psychological treatment. They develop and evaluate mathematical models for psychological tests. They also propose methods for evaluating the quality and fairness of the tests.

Rehabilitation psychologists

Rehabilitation psychologists work with stroke and accident victims, people with mental retardation, and those with developmental disabilities caused by such conditions as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism. They help clients adapt to their situation, frequently working with other health care professionals. They deal with issues of personal adjustment, interpersonal relations, the work world, and pain management.

Rehabilitation psychologists are also involved in public health programs to prevent disabilities, including those caused by violence and substance abuse. And they testify in court as expert witnesses about the causes and effects of a disability and a person's rehabilitation needs.

School psychologists

School psychologists work directly with public and private schools. They assess and counsel students, consult with parents and school staff, and conduct behavioral interventions when appropriate. Most school districts employ psychologists full time.

Social psychologists

Social psychologists study how a person's mental life and behavior are shaped by interactions with other people. They are interested in all aspects of interpersonal relationships, including both individual and group influences, and

seek ways to improve such interactions. For example, their research helps us understand how people form attitudes toward others, and when these are harmful—as in the case of prejudice—suggests ways to change them.

Social psychologists are found in a variety of settings, from academic institutions (where they teach and conduct research), to advertising agencies (where they study consumer attitudes and preferences), to businesses and government agencies (where they help with a variety of problems in organization and management).

Sports psychologists

Sports psychologists help athletes refine their focus on competition goals, become more motivated, and learn to deal with the anxiety and fear of failure that often accompany competition. The field is growing as sports of all kinds become more and more competitive and attract younger children than ever.

Non-Academic Careers (<http://www.apa.org/careers/resources/profiles/index.aspx>)

A faculty position at a college or university is not the only career option for psychologists.

In response to the concerns of many psychology graduate students about the lack information on careers outside of the university setting, we began inviting psychologists with traditional training to tell us about their work in some relatively non-traditional places. The list below represents a relatively small sampling of an infinite number of careers that are possible--those who have "taken a different path" relate their own experiences of how they got to where they are now and the valuable lessons they learned along the way to employment "beyond the lab."

The following *Interesting Careers in Psychology* articles illustrate the various skill-sets and expertise that psychologists possess which are also highly valued by employers outside of academe. The non-traditional career paths represented by these personal success stories illustrate the different types of unique contributions made by psychologists in many different employment settings.

Academic Administration

- [Academic Research Administrator](#) Robert P. Lowman
- [University Provost](#) Peter Nathan

Animal Protection

- [Animal Programs Psychologist](#) Jacqueline Ogden

Behavioral Research

- [Experimental Psychologist in a Behavioral Science Research Firm](#) Sunny Becker

Communications

- [Technology Consultant in the Telecom Industry](#) Yihsiu Chen

Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement

- [Federal Drug Science Specialist](#) Christine A. Sannerud
- [Forensic Psychologist in the FBI](#) Anthony J. Pinizzotto
- [Police Psychology in the Federal Government](#) Neil S. Hibler
- [Trial Consultant](#) Joy Stapp

Defense

- [Corporate Investment Strategist for the Military](#) Hendrick Ruck

Education

- [Science Museum Education and Research Specialist](#) Laura M. W. Martin

Ergonomics

- [Engineering Psychology in Research and Development](#) James R. Callan

Health Care

- [Clinical Neuropsychopharmacologist](#) Richard J. Katz
- [Medical Error Consultant](#) Marilyn Sue Bogner
- [Neuropsychologist Prospers in Pharmaceuticals](#) Peter J. Snyder
- [Psychology Emerges in a Multimedia World](#) Simon H. Budman
- [Research Psychologist in a Medical School](#) Robert L. Balster
- [Social Psychologist in Rehabilitation Technology](#) David Boninger

High Technology

- [NASA Research Psychologist](#) Cynthia H. Null
- [NASA Research Scientist](#) Robert S. McCann

Human Factors

- [Aviation Human Factors Practitioner](#) Robert R. Tyler
- [Human Factors Expert](#) Liz Gehr
- [Human Factors Psychologist in Aviation](#) Holly R. Landwehr
- [Human Factors Psychologist in Aviation](#) John K. Lauber

Human Resources

- [Executive Search Consultant](#) Naomi Schwartz
- [Expert Witness in Employment Discrimination Cases](#) Hilary R. Weiner
- [Human Resources Research Organization](#) Peter Ramsberger

Interior Design

- [Design Psychologist](#) Susan Lee Painter

Management

- [Foundation Executive](#) Anne C. Petersen

Organizational Development

- [Organizational Development Consultant Philip M. Smith](#)

Language

- [Research Director for a Non-Profit Organization Yael Bat-Chava](#)

Market Research

- [International Market Research Consultant Richard Garfein](#)
- [Market Research Consultant Stephen J. Kraus](#)

Philanthropy

- [Psychology Meets Philanthropy E. Belvin Williams](#)

Politics

- [Psychologist in the White House James A. Griffin](#)

Public Policy

- [Policy Scientist as an Independent Consultant Pamela Flattau](#)
- [Policy Scientist for a Federal Agency David Stonner](#)

Public Safety

- [Federal Regulatory Officer for Protection of Human Subjects Tom Puglisi](#)
- [Highway Safety Research Analyst Susan A. Ferguson](#)

Publishing

- [Acquisitions Editor Judith Amsel](#)

Research

- [Chemical Senses Scientist Julia Mennella](#)
- [Cognitive and I/O Psychologists in the Technology Industry Margaret Diddams](#)

Statistics

- [Statistical and Methodological Consultant Dale Glaser](#)

Social Policy

- [Social Science Analyst in the Public Sector Carolyn Copper](#)

User Interface Design

- [Human-Computer Interface Designer Mary Carol Day](#)
- [Research Psychology at Microsoft Mary Czerwinski](#)

Writing

- [Becoming a Science Writer Siri Carpenter](#)

Psychology's growth careers

Psychologists' expertise in human behavior is increasingly welcomed in many nontraditional career settings.

By Tori DeAngelis

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Good news: Despite the country's current economic downturn, experts say it's never been a better time to be a psychologist, thanks largely to the psychology field's breadth and adaptability.

With the help of these experts, the Monitor has compiled a list of areas in which psychologists are in demand, either in terms of the number of positions available now, the growth potential of the area or both.

Some areas apply basic psychological training in novel ways or settings--for example, programs that combat unhealthy behaviors. Other areas are tied to the nation's well-being, such as bolstering the mental health of returning veterans, Americans' ability to cope with terrorist threats or the psychological health of older adults.

Other trends are simply new spins on psychology practice. Although some psychologists fear that independent practice is increasingly a vestige of the past, innovators show it can remain a rewarding way to help people.

Overall, the expanding career market indicates that psychologists' expertise in human behavior is being recognized and embraced by more fields, in more ways, says Claremont Graduate University psychology professor Dale E. Berger, PhD, who closely tracks psychology careers.

"Most of the problems in the world are problems of behavior--how people treat others, how they treat the environment and how they treat themselves," Berger says. "We have an understanding of behavior and the methods to study it that allows us to address all kinds of important issues in a variety of settings."

Program evaluation

One particularly hot growth area for psychologists also has the potential to make a major difference in public health: program evaluation. Using psychological research tools, evaluators assess the strengths and weaknesses of programs, policies and organizations to improve their effectiveness, says Stewart I. Donaldson, PhD, who with Berger and Kathy Pezdek, PhD, co-edited "Applied Psychology: New Frontiers and Rewarding Careers" (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2006).

Program evaluation is similar to a traditional psychological study, but it's in the real world, Donaldson says.

"The tools of program evaluation enable psychologists to help prevent and solve some of the world's most pressing social, community and organizational problems," he says.

The number of professional evaluation societies worldwide has climbed from five in 1990 to about 50 today, Donaldson notes.

Expertise in program evaluation is critical for such groups as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which spends millions of dollars to make sure its programs tackling ills such as poverty, poor health care and unemployment are taking effect. Many program evaluators also work in the private sector to ensure the effectiveness of companies' initiatives on diversity, productivity and quality of life.

The federal government also relies on program evaluators. Donaldson, for example, helped to evaluate the 1980s' "Just Say No" anti-drug programs, and determined that they actually sent the wrong message--essentially that drug use is the norm, which, ironically, led to greater drug use. From that work sprang today's more successful programs that ensure teens don't misperceive the prevalence or "coolness" of drug use, Donaldson says.

Working with older adults

In 2004, Americans 65 and older made up 12 percent of the population. By 2050, they'll make up 21 percent. These numbers--along with the fact that older adults are increasingly receptive to mental health services--mean that geropsychology is poised to be a major growth area, says APA Committee on Aging (CONA) Chair Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, director of Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology.

"Geropsychologists bring skills--such as superior assessment, intervention and consultation abilities--that are sorely needed by our nation's older adult population," he says.

These psychologists work in a variety of capacities, including as service providers, researchers, directors of older adult mental health programs, and as designers of "smart homes" and products that help older adults more easily manage their lives. The work is varied and stimulating, adds Deborah DiGilio, director of APA's Office on Aging. "Geropsychologists do everything from keeping older adults mentally and physically healthy and vibrant, to working with those who are frail and have cognitive impairments," she says.

The field itself is maturing. In 2003, APA adopted the [Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults](#). In 2006, field leaders convened a national training conference where they developed the "Pike's Peaks" training model, and last year they formed a new organization of training programs that will support training at the competency level and beyond. In addition, CONA is working on projects to infuse geropsychology content into curricula from the high school to the graduate school level.

Recognizing psychologists' growing role in the area, in February, APA's Council of Representatives adopted [Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population](#), a report developed by the APA Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population. The report highlights the importance of providing integrated, interdisciplinary care to older adults.

Aiding soldiers, veterans and their families

Given the federal push to improve mental health services for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, opportunities abound for psychologists in the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The VA alone has funded more than 800 new psychology positions since fiscal year '05, a 36 percent increase, says Brad Karlin, PhD, of the VA's Office of Mental Health Services. As of December, the VA was still recruiting for 100 of those positions.

Besides providing one-on-one and group therapy to veterans, VA psychologists play a key role in such innovative new programs as national initiatives to integrate psychologists into general primary care, VA nursing homes and home-based primary care, where psychologists are key members of teams that take services to veterans unable to travel to the hospital. There are a small number of psychologists in research and administrative positions as well. (To find out more, visit [VA Careers](#), or call the VA's national job information line at 800-949-0002.)

Likewise, the DoD has a growing need for psychologists, says Col. Bruce Crow, PhD, clinical psychology consultant to the U.S. Army surgeon general. In the Air Force, Navy and Army, for example, only 82 percent of the 474 career psychologist positions are filled, for reasons ranging from the fact that some slots have only been open for a short time to the fact that a number of psychologists left active duty in 2004 and 2005 at the end of their service obligations. A number of civilian positions are available as well. Besides offering excellent salary and benefits and loan repayment for licensed psychologists entering active duty, the DoD pays for employees' continuing education and board certification. It also offers APA-approved internships with competitive salaries.

Moreover, the DoD offers the chance to work in positions with a high degree of responsibility and leadership potential, Crow says.

For more information, visit [USA Jobs](#).

Homeland security

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "recognizes that behavioral, social and cognitive research is really important to their mission, so they're ramping up investment in those areas," says APA Executive Director for Science Steven Breckler, PhD.

Two DHS-funded centers in particular rely on psychologists to examine the impact of terrorist threats and events from a social and behavioral science perspective. The first, the [National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terror](#), or START, housed at the University of Maryland, uses social and behavioral science to examine the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological impact of terrorism.

"Terrorism is a quintessentially psychological problem, on both the individual and societal levels," says social psychologist Arie Kruglanski, PhD, who heads the center's working group on terrorist group formation and recruitment. His team examines what motivates people to join terrorist organizations and how those groups elicit such motivations. Others are studying the psychology and sociology of terrorist group operations, as well as community responses to terrorist attacks and how to promote resilience.

The second DHS-funded center, the [National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events](#), or CREATE, located at the University of Southern California, focuses on risk and economic analysis of terrorism. Social and behavioral scientists there study how people and groups make decisions following threat warnings or terrorism events, in order to better estimate the economic and social consequences of such events.

"So much has been written about the irrationality of terrorists, but they're not irrational at all in their goals and beliefs," says Richard John, PhD, who is helping to create a decision-making model that predicts how terrorist organizations might think about where and how to strike. "It makes more sense to view them as foreign countries or Fortune 500 companies with strategic objectives."

Such information could then be used by DHS to formulate strategies to mitigate risk, including allocating resources in a way that takes into account the risk potential of different locations, he says.

Government service

The federal government is hungry for psychologists, in part because it has created new positions, but also because many senior psychologists are retiring, says Jessica Kohout, PhD, director of APA's Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research.

Psychologists who work in the government hold a number of key posts, for example as program or division directors in such science-centered agencies as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). At NIH, many institutes such as the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health

and Human Development, the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, have active and vibrant behavioral science programs, Breckler notes, while NSF maintains programs in social psychology, human cognition, developmental psychology, cognitive neuroscience, law and social science, and decision science. In addition, various NIH institutes have their own research labs, which employ many lab chiefs, scientists, research assistants and postdocs.

NIH lists positions at www.jobs.nih.gov.

To tap into jobs at any federal agency, visit usajobs.gov. The National Science Foundation posts job openings on its Web site, www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/.

Other psychologists in government work as legislative aides to members of Congress, including former APA President Pat DeLeon, PhD, who has worked for Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) for 34 years.

His psychological background helped him achieve such coups as establishing a national pediatric-emergency service program and creating postdoc psychology positions at the VA. "Public servants are limited only by their own vision, energy and interpersonal skills," says DeLeon.

And, of course, a few psychologists have become politicians themselves, including Rep. Brian Baird, PhD, (D-Wash.) and Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (D).

A great way to test these political waters is to apply to APA's Congressional Fellowship Program, which funds several psychologists each year to work as special legislative advisers to members of Congress. Depending on their expertise, fellows work on issues as diverse as violence and abuse prevention, health disparities, services for people living with HIV/AIDS and mental health care reform. (Visit [APA Fellows](#) for more information.)

Psychologists are also in demand at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, where they work in clinical services, administration, research and training. The need has never been greater, with one in 100 Americans now behind bars--the highest number in history--according to a new report from the Pew Center on the States.

Philip Magaletta, PhD, clinical training coordinator in the psychology services branch there, estimates that the bureau has about 20 positions open annually; internships are also available.

"There is no greater high-risk, high-need group than inmates, and psychology has barely begun to scratch the surface of the potential it holds for addressing their needs," he says.

For more information, contact Magaletta at [e-mail](#).

Workplace applications

Industrial-organizational (I/O) psychology has long been a popular and lucrative area, and it's growing: Membership in the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology or SIOP (APA's Div. 14), for example, has risen 11 percent

since 2000, and student membership has gone up 63 percent in the same time period, says SIOP President Lois Tetrick, PhD.

The field takes core areas of the psychological literature--testing, measurement, statistics, social psychology, cognitive psychology, as well as research on attitudes, teams and personality--and applies them to the wide and changing variety of workplace settings, cultures and employees, says Tetrick.

In recent years, technology, communications and globalization have all influenced the way I/O psychologists think about organizations and work design, Tetrick notes. For example, they're applying the human-factors literature on human-machine interactions and virtual teams in work with companies in these areas. In the international arena, I/O psychologists have paid increasing attention to cross-cultural issues related to communications, attitudes, and organizational culture and climate.

Two areas are particularly popular for psychologists at the moment, says Tetrick: executive coaching and occupational health psychology. Executive coaching, which combines clinical and I/O skills to improve executive performance, is SIOP members' second most frequently cited primary area of interest after selection and hiring (see <http://gradpsych.apags.org/nov06/coaching.html> for more).

Meanwhile, occupational health psychology is a burgeoning subfield that focuses on preventing ill health and fostering good health through job design, good leadership and stress reduction. (Tetrick edits the field's APA journal, *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*.)

For more information, visit Div. 14 at www.siop.org, which offers links to a range of job and networking opportunities.

Courtroom expertise

For those with the right training, forensic psychology is a booming area, says psychologist Alan M. Goldstein, PhD, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and editor of "Forensic Psychology: Emerging Topics and Expanding Roles" (John Wiley & Sons, 2007).

Forensic psychologists conduct psycho-legal evaluations and offer their opinions as expert witnesses in criminal, malpractice and other cases, says Goldstein. The area became an APA-approved specialization in 2001. Since then, "more and more practice areas are emerging," Goldstein says, including assessing and managing workplace and school violence; assessing and evaluating cases of clergy abuse, elder abuse and those involving end-of-life issues; and conducting independent medical evaluations.

Meanwhile, forensic neuropsychologists--who have training both in neuropsychology and forensic psychology--are in greater demand as well, as courts increasingly seek expertise in medical and accident cases.

Practice niches

According to data compiled by APA's Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research, the percentage of psychologists in independent practice climbed from 24.6 percent in 1987 to 38.7 percent in 2006.

That said, experts believe new thinking and strategies are needed to keep the area flourishing. One way to do this is by developing specialty niches focusing on areas that others with less training can't do as effectively. APA Div. 42 (Independent Practice) President-elect Tammy Martin-Causey, PhD, advises psychologists to do a needs-assessment in their communities first, then choose niches from there. So, for example, if you live in an area with a large population of smokers, you may want to develop a practice focused on smoking cessation, she says.

Practices that accommodate clients' busy schedules are also in demand, Martin-Causey says. With the clients in her Phoenix-area practice, for example, she keeps late office hours, holds lengthy couples therapy sessions so people don't have to commute long distances as often, and adds leadership development workshops to her mix of services.

Multidisciplinary applications

Perhaps more than any other scientific discipline, psychology is a "hub" science, one that connects to virtually all of the social, behavioral, mathematical and biological sciences, says APA's Breckler. That means psychologists are particularly well-positioned to take advantage of the trend toward multidisciplinary research and applications.

Funding is following suit: NIH, for instance, has poured millions of dollars into multidisciplinary health and social science projects in such areas as obesity, elder self-neglect, stroke neurorehabilitation and health disparities (see the [May 2005 Monitor](#) for more).

One \$22 million, NIH-funded effort is the Consortium for Neuropsychiatric Phenomics, based at the University of California, Los Angeles. There, 52 investigators from several institutions are testing a new paradigm for understanding mental illnesses based on basic brain processes, rather than the currently used descriptive diagnostic categories. In particular, the team--including experts in genetics, genomics, molecular biology, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging, clinical psychiatry, animal behavior and other areas--is examining memory mechanisms and response inhibition, two aspects of brain function that span multiple mental disorders. Eventually, findings could be used to tailor treatment in more refined ways.

Meanwhile, David Woods, PhD, professor at Ohio State University's Institute for Ergonomics, says his human factors students are securing fascinating jobs post-graduation, thanks to their multidisciplinary course load. Besides traditional human factors classes, they take courses in digital production, new media and innovation to learn how to create computerized products and systems with the input of artists and designers.

When they leave the program, they take jobs in areas such as designing devices and systems that center medical care on promoting long-term patient health and creating robots and sensors that extend humans' ability to work in remote or dangerous settings, such as on space missions and search-and-rescue operations.

"When engineers and computer scientists design products, they tend to push technological boundaries, but they may neglect to integrate the product into the context and goals of human activity," Woods says. "It is critical to blend the psychological perspective into the mix of fields that are reshaping how people interact, work and use their talents through new media."The same holds true for myriad other interdisciplinary areas where psychology plays a critical role, others say. Tori DeAngelis is a writer in Syracuse, N.Y. From: <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2008/04/careers.aspx>

Web Resources:

Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/oco

An extensive compendium of careers, employment outlook, work settings, salaries, career subtypes, needed education, and much more.

Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) <http://www.occupationalinfo.org/>

This huge database includes information about what knowledge and skills are needed for each type of job

Dr. Marky Lloyd's Careers in Psychology Web Site <http://www.psychwww.com/careers/>

It's not pretty, but it holds a wealth of information about preparing for and finding careers for psychology majors.

Psychology Majors Handbook: <http://campus.udayton.edu/~psych/handbook/BACHOP~1.HTM>

Lists employment possibilities, but more importantly how to do a self-assessment and make a career decision, and has strategies for finding jobs.

"I'm Getting my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology- What Can I Do with It?"

http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_50.aspx

Article from the journal for Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology majors. Goals for undergraduates, top 10 skills employers seek, top 10 occupations that employ those with undergraduate degrees in psychology, and a very long list of possible jobs. Don't ignore the links to the tables.

Don't forget to check out the career links on GVSU's Psychology Department web page

www.gvsu.edu/psychology. You'll find excellent resources and a list of popular careers for psychology majors who want to work with children.

Resources if you have interest in Clinical/Health Psychology

CAREER INFORMATION AND JOB OUTLOOKS IN GENERAL: INCLUDING AS A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

<http://www.bls.gov/search/ooh.htm>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: For information on careers in psychology or other types of careers (any type of career, really), work settings, specializations, and salaries, job projections etc.

<http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/careers/counseling.html>

An EXCELLENT general website providing an overview comparison contrast of numerous types of “helping careers” including clinical or counseling psychology, social work, pastoral counseling, social work, school psychology, etc. This also has a number of very helpful links for each of these career directions.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

<http://www.div12.org/about-clinical-psychology>

from the Division 12 website. Information on clinical psychology in general.

<http://psychology.about.com/od/psychologycareerprofiles/p/clinicalpsych.htm>

more on a career as a clinical psychologist (including some pros and cons).

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY INFORMATION:

<http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4317163.aspx>

Book on Clinical Health Psychology in Medical settings: the authors, thirty-year veterans in the field, provide an overview of the roles and functions of clinical health psychologists as well as the education, training, personal, and professional issues involved. Many of the chapters have details on nuts and bolts of practice, but I believe this books begins with general information that might be useful to students wanting to explore the possibility of a career in Health Psychology.

<http://www.health-psych.org/>

APA website for the Health Psych. Division (Division 38).

<http://www.apa.org/education/k12/healthpsych.ppt>

Powerpoint show on health Psychology, focus, settings, careers, etc.

APPLYING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL:

<http://www.apa.org/education/grad/index.aspx>

Information from APA on graduate training. Such as sources of funding, applying to graduate school.

Bachelor's Level Human Services Job Titles:

Adoptions Social Worker or Aide

Foster Care Case Manager or Aide

Adoptions Intake Specialist

Case Aide

Counselor

Youth Treatment Specialist

Community Living Support Specialist

Foster Care Licensing Worker

Life Enrichment Coordinator

Child and Family Services Coordinator

Community Outreach Worker

Independent Living Specialist

Psychiatric Nursing Aide

Mental Health Worker

Mental Health Technician

Family Educator

Wellness Specialist

Health Promotion Specialist

Job Training Specialist

Church Youth Services Coordinator

Group Home Attendant

Employment Specialist

Parole or Probation Officer

Volunteer Coordinator

Job Coach or Employment Counselor

Day Care Center Supervisor

West Michigan Employers of Psychology Majors

Arbor Circle <http://www.arborcircle.org/>

Women's Resource Center <http://www.grwrc.org/>

Center for Women in Transition <http://www.aplaceforwomen.org/contact.html>

Lutheran Social Services <http://www.lssm.org/LSSM/Page.aspx?pid=442>

Catholic Social Services <http://www.ccwestmi.org/>

DA Blodgett/St. John's Home <http://www.dablodgett.org/>

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services <http://www.pinerest.org/home>

Kent County Juvenile Detention Center

http://www.accesskent.com/CourtsAndLawEnforcement/JuvenileDetention/jd_index.htm

Hope Network <http://www.hopenetwork.org/About-Hope-Network/Careers.aspx>

Goodwill Industries <http://www.goodwillgr.org/>

Michigan Family Independence Agency <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>

Michigan Works! <http://michiganworks.org/>

Wedgwood Christian Services <http://www.wedgwood.org/>

Bethany Christian Services <http://www.bethany.org/grandrapids>

Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center

<http://www.co.ottawa.mi.us/CourtsLE/JuvenileSvcs/detentioncenter.htm>

Children's Resource Network <http://www.childrensresourcenetwork.pantrynet.org/Page1.html>

West Michigan United Way Agencies <http://www.waybetterunitedway.org/>

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Assistant Psychologist Dow Chemical	Quality Assurance Coordinator Senior Resources
After School Coordinator NHP Foundation	Licensed Personal Banker JP Morgan Chase
Teacher Assistant Apple Tree	Senior Associate of Community Investment United Way
Administrative Assistant Glaxo Smith Kline	Clinical Program Manager Hope Network
Manager in Training The Buckle	Branch Manager Lake Michigan Credit Union
Educational Therapy Instructor Integrative Educational Partners	Director of Special Gifts Holland Home Foundation/Faith Hospice
Foster Home Developer Orchards Children's Services	Volunteer Coordinator Americorps
Care Provider Pine Rest Christian Hospital	Youth Treatment Specialist Wedgwood Christian Services
Placement Consultant Hope Network	Activity and Volunteer Coordinator Sunrise Senior Living
Children Services Case Worker State of Maine	Referral Coordinator Cherry Street Health Services
Employment Specialist Goodwill Industries	Expansion Coordinator United Way
Crisis Aide Every Woman's Place	Financial Counselor Home Repair Services
Consumer Relations Wolverine Worldwide	People Services Generalist National Heritage Academies
Service Specialist State Farm Insurance	
Production Planner Williams Form Engineering Corp.	



www.gvsu.edu/careers

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITY	SOME OF THE VALUE TO YOU	SOME OF THE VALUE TO EMPLOYER OR GRAD SCHOOL
STUDY ABROAD	Intellectual challenge. New perspectives. Build language skills. See new places. Get to know a culture. Handle problems.	Comfortable in new environments. Language and culture skills. Active learner. Risk taker. Shows initiative.
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT	Acquire workplace skills. Learn about college from a different perspective. May be given professional duties depending on position – seek these out. Acquire recommendations.	Demonstrates initiative and is a hard worker. Manages time well if grades are also good. May acquire specific skills related to job depending on position.
LEADERSHIP IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS	Practice motivating and leading others. Learn new skills and develop relationships. Be recognized on campus. Connections with administrators and faculty, Acquire recommendations.	Future management potential. Someone who can motivate others. Handles variety of management tasks including budgeting. Takes initiative and demonstrates team-playing ability.
INTERNSHIPS	Pre-professional experience valuable on resume. Immersion in work environment. Learn whether you want to pursue as career. Acquire recommendations.	Experience in field demonstrates commitment. Shows initiative. Demonstrates skills directly related to a job.
SUMMER JOBS	Money. Shows you work hard. May acquire skills related to future depending on job. Learn what you like and don't like about workplace.	Demonstrates initiative and hard work. Depending on position may have specific skills needed for workplace.
VOLUNTEERING/SERVICE LEARNING	Good feeling knowing that you helped another. May acquire work-related skills. Provides understanding and nonprofit organization.	Demonstrates character. May have acquired relevant knowledge to workplace. Generally valued by all employers.
TEMP WORK	Learn about a variety of workplaces; acquire valuable office skills; build customer service skills; can get promoted or lead to a full-time job. Many sources for recommendations.	Demonstrates flexibility; able to handle a variety of situations; quick learner; will fit in with new workers.

The Experience	Brainstormed List of Skills/Activities	Career Language

gvsu.edu/careers



Non-Psychology Graduate School Options for Psychology Majors

*Preparation includes specific additional courses at the undergraduate level

- Social Work (<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/choices/choices1.asp>)
 - Community/Social Justice
 - Clinical Social Work
 - School Social Work
 - Medical Social Work
- Professional Counseling
 - Community
 - Substance Abuse
 - Marital and Family
 - Holistic
- School Counseling
- Behavioral Analysis
- Medical School*
- Law School
- Occupational Therapy*
- Physical Therapy *
- Recreational Therapy/Therapeutic Recreation*
- Public Health
 - Health Care Manager/Administrator
 - Biostatistics*
 - Public Health Practitioners
 - Nutritionists*
 - Specialists in society, human development and health
- Wellness
- Child Life Specialist
- Adult & Higher Ed. –College Student Affairs Leadership
 - Student Life
 - Housing
 - Academic Advising
 - Multi-cultural Affairs
 - Career Services
 - Special Programs
- Business Administration
- Public Administration
 - Health Administration
 - Non-Profit Administration
 - Public Management
 - Urban/Regional Affairs/Policy & Planning
- Human Resources
- Labor Relations/Labor and Industrial Relations
 - Labor Negotiation
- Marketing/Advertising Research/Social and Market Research Practice
- Social Research/Survey Methodology/Social Research Methodology

Other Options Requiring Further Study:

- Ministry
- Pastoral Counseling
- Youth Minister

Resource List for Careers and Graduate Study in Psychology

For career biographies of psychologists in interesting fields:

http://www.apa.org/science/nonacad_careers.html

Career Exploration Resources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook:

www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm

To contact GVSU alumni working in specific fields: <http://www.gvsu.edu/careercontact/>

What Can You Do with a BA in Psychology? http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_68.aspx This text is also available in the CLAS Academic Advising Center's Resource Room and can be checked out for personal use.

Salaries and Debt Load in Psychology Careers:

<http://www.apa.org/workforce/presentations/2008-debt-salaries.pdf>

Volunteering Opportunities:

GVSU Community Service Learning Center – Lists volunteer opportunities maintained by the GVSU Community Service Learning Center. <http://www.gvsu.edu/service/>

Volunteer Match – A data-base that allows volunteers to search all over the country for opportunities or organizations that fit their interest areas. www.volunteermatch.com

Volunteer Solutions – A United Way volunteer-matching database for the Grand Rapids area.

<http://national.unitedway.org/volunteer/>

1-800-Volunteer – A web-based search that allows you to locate opportunities within your zip code, as well as track your hours. www.1-800-volunteer.org

For a listing of all APA-approved graduate programs in psychology by state and specialty area:

American Psychological Association (2010). *Graduate study in psychology, XXXX Edition*. Washington, DC: Author. New edition each year.

You can buy this book from the APA web site. Copies are also available in the library and in the CLAS Academic Advising Center's Resource Room. You can also subscribe to on-line access to this book through the APA web site for \$19.95 for a three month period.

Mayne, T. J., Norcross, J. C., & Sayette, M. A. (2006). *Insider's guide to graduate programs in clinical and counseling psychology*. New York: Guildford Press.

Social Work Graduate Programs:

Peterson's Guide to graduate programs in business, education, health, information studies, law & social work.

Directory of colleges and universities with accredited social work degree programs, Washington, D.C. :
Council on Social Work Education

http://www.gradschools.com/listings/menus/social_work_menu.html or

<http://cosw.sc.edu/swan/univ.html>

Where Should I Apply to Graduate School:

http://www.psichi.org/Pubs/Articles/Article_773.aspx

Rankings of Graduate Programs in psychology and social work: Read caution statement carefully.

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>

Getting Accepted:

http://www.psichi.org/pubs/articles/article_22.aspx

<http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2007/11/cover-acceptance.aspx>

American Psychological Association (2007). *Getting in: A step-by-step plan for gaining admission to graduate school in psychology*. Washington, DC: Author. Available at the [apa.org](http://www.apa.org) web site.

GRE's – Graduate Record Exams

General Test and Subject Test NOTE: General Test is changing. Check web site for updates. www.ets.org/gre

Who's Afraid of the GRE's? <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/who-s-afraid-of-the-gre-s-65.htm>

American Psychological Association:

www.apa.org

Psi Chi:

International honor society in psychology. A wealth of articles on careers in psychology and graduate school. www.psichi.org To join the GVSU chapter go the psychology department homepage and choose :Psi Chi.

GVSU Psychology Department Web Page:

www.gvsu.edu/psych

Research:

Is all undergraduate research the same in the eyes of a graduate program?

http://www.psichi.org/awards/winners/hunt_reports/kaiser.aspx

Presenting and Participating in Research:

Student Scholars Day: <http://www.gvsu.edu/ssd/index.cfm?id=09F4E37F-BB39-3370-2F2769231071899C>

Summer Scholars:

The Student Summer Scholars Program (S3) provides funds for a student and faculty mentor to devote twelve weeks to a research and/or creative project during the spring/summer semester. Generally, S3

Grants provide a student stipend, faculty stipend, and a small budget for supplies. Grants do not exceed \$6,000. Combining academics, field work, and a reflection component provides students with a meaningful learning experience that helps to prepare them for graduate school and future careers.

<http://www.gvsu.edu/s3/index.cfm?id=DE343690-041E-1D25-78FC9B34039E6117>

McNair Scholars Program:

McNair Scholars is a TRiO program funded through the United States Department of Education and Grand Valley State University. This program is designed to prepare highly talented undergraduates to pursue doctoral degrees and to increase the number of individuals (from target groups) on college and university faculties. The McNair Scholars have parents have no 4-year college degree and are low-income, or are from groups underrepresented at the graduate level for doctoral studies. The program accepts students from all disciplines.

The McNair Scholars receive academic counseling, advising, and GRE preparation. In addition, they're matched with a Ph.D. faculty mentor to conduct research and attend a McNair research conference to present their findings. In the first semester of their senior year, the scholars receive assistance with the graduate school application process.