

Searching for a job with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

Be bold. Psychology majors with a liberal arts degree have a broad range of skills and experience and therefore can apply their knowledge in fields beyond the scope of human services when looking for employment. Understanding human behavior is a crucial skill underlying a wide range of jobs from

Remember that in most cases your skill set is more important than your specific degree – If you can articulate this skillset it will set you apart from other candidates. In your cover letter and the interview be prepared to tell the employer:

- what you have done (for example; classes- both course content and activities such as group projects, experiential learning, prior jobs, practicum/internships, and volunteer experiences)
- what you have learned from those experiences (skills acquired)
- how those skills apply to the specific position

It may be helpful to use the attached grid to brainstorm about your experiences and resulting skillset.

For example, if you are applying for a job as a Child and Family Services Coordinator:

What you've done	What you've learned from it	How it applies to this position
Courses taken: PSY 301 – Child Development PSY 304 – Exceptional Child SOC 205 – Social Problems	Stages of healthy development Influences of social context, biology, and environment Understand variations of development and different diagnostic categories	Could model and teach healthy modes of interaction with children to support development. Understand family dynamics Sensitive to the social issues that impact families
Internship at the Children's Enrichment Center at GVSU	How children interact Learned to help children resolve difficulties and modulate feelings	Can recognize and promote healthy interactions between children and adults
Nannied for special needs child	Learned how to identify and focus on individual children's needs Developed patience	Can respond appropriately to other's needs to promote autonomy and growth Understand that everyone is different and has individual needs
Independent research (PSY 499) in Grand Valley's Infant Cognition Lab	Applied developmental theory to real life Learned to work independently and accomplish goals in a timely fashion	Understand that behavior does not always match what theory predicts, but that theories provide a deeper general understanding Self-starter, can work consistently to meet goals without supervision
Tutored in the Schools of Hope program with 3 rd grade students	Learned the importance of matching reinforcements to individual interests Motivating factors Developed my interpersonal skills	Can relate to people with different life experiences than my own Can help parents encourage their children

If you were applying for a job as a volunteer coordinator:

What you've done	What you learned from this	How it applies to the position
<p>Courses taken: COM 201 - Speech</p> <p>PA 360 – Voluntarism and the Nonprofit Sector</p> <p>PSY 445 – Industrial/Organizational Psychology</p> <p>PSY 420 – Theories of Personality</p>	<p>Learned to organize information and create an engaging presentation it to groups Became comfortable in speaking in public</p> <p>Learned trends and motivation for volunteering across different institutions</p> <p>Learned the principles of selecting candidates to an appropriate position, factors involved in satisfaction and how to evaluate performance</p>	<p>Strong presentation skills</p> <p>Understand factors involved in volunteering</p> <p>Able to select a varied group of individuals who can work well together</p> <p>Can maintain motivation to increase volunteer longevity</p>
<p>Group projects in several classes</p>	<p>Understand how each group member can play a different role in shared tasks</p> <p>Cooperation</p> <p>How to give critical feedback to others</p>	<p>Value individual differences</p> <p>Provide effective feedback to improve performance</p>
<p>Alternative Spring Break participation – Volunteered to build shelters in Haiti</p>	<p>To use resources wisely</p> <p>How to be a team member</p> <p>To see the world from a different cultural perspective and respect other's experiences</p>	<p>Understand the financial uncertainty faced by human services agencies</p> <p>Respect individual differences</p> <p>Can convey the personal value of volunteering</p>
<p>History Club – Organized the annual fundraiser event for Paws with a Cause</p>	<p>To break down an overall goal into smaller concrete steps</p> <p>To delegate responsibility and follow-up to make sure goals are accomplished</p>	<p>Know how to develop a publicity campaign to involve a wide array of people</p> <p>Can develop effective goals and achieve them</p>