

## Psychology...NOW WHAT?

### About The Field of Psychology

Widely speaking, the field of psychology is defined by a calling to help people, using knowledge of how the health of human brains and social interactions influence our emotional sense of well-being, our self-identity, and our behavior.

Psychology students focusing on neuroscience and earning the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in psychology often find work in the research field, advancing our knowledge of how humans really are. They often start as research coordinators, doing the work of finding and qualifying human subjects, administering surveys or cognitive tests, and managing the paperwork that goes along with a professional research project. Those who wish to themselves propose and run research projects of their own will need to attend graduate school.

Most professional counseling positions, including psychiatrist, psychologist, and licensed social worker require additional specialized education beyond a bachelor's degree. However, there are a wide range of other occupations and fields that seek out insightful people with a psychology bachelor of arts (B.A.) or bachelor of science (B.S.) degree, including social services, public affairs, administrative support, education, business, sales, allied health, software design, and human resources.

Quick Facts: Psychologists	
<b>2020 Median Pay</b>	\$82,180 per year
<b>Entry-Level Education</b>	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b>	None
<b>On-the-job Training</b>	Internship/residency
<b>Number of Jobs, 2019</b>	192,300
<b>Job Outlook, 2019-29</b>	3% (As fast as average)
<b>Employment Change, 2019-29</b>	5,700

[Found on the Occupational Outlook Handbook, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/psychologists.htm>]

### What Can You Do with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology?

Here's a quick sample of varied jobs that psychology undergrads might find:

- Community Relations Officer: works either for business or government in promoting good relations with the local community.
- Affirmative Action Officer: works for recruitment and equal opportunities for minorities; employed by business, industries, schools and government.
- Management Trainee: plans and supervises operations of a business concern.
- Urban Planning Officer: deals with city planning, renewal.
- Personnel Administrator: works with employee relations, selection, promotions, etc.
- Advertising Copywriter: researches audience and media, writes text of advertisements.
- Media Buyer: researches products and audiences to select most effective media for advertising.
- Health Educator: gives public information about health and disease.
- Psychological Technician: administers routine tests, helps with patients under supervision of a psychologist.
- Director of Volunteer Service: recruits, supervises, trains and evaluates volunteers.
- Public Statistician: collects and interprets data on health and disease and community relations.
- Customs Inspector: serves at international borders and airports in investigations and inquiries.

- Probation/Parole Officer: persons with psychology backgrounds are often preferred for such positions, especially with adolescent parolees.
- Technical Writer: researches and writes material dealing with social science for magazines, newspapers, and journals.
- Sales Representative: major publishers of psychological books often seek out undergraduates with psychology majors for these positions on college campuses.
- Opinion Survey Researcher: does opinion polls and interprets results.
- Daycare Center Supervisor: supervises and coordinates activities of preschool children with working parents.
- Research Assistant: assists in the collection and analysis of data for major investigations. Positions usually available only in large hospitals, businesses, and government.
- Laboratory Assistant: psychology background preferred for students working with animal behavior research, especially primate laboratories.
- Scientific Instrument Salesperson: opportunities in sales and development for companies specializing in psychology apparatus.

Here are some more occupations in some of the broad field categories that seek psychology undergrads:

<p><b><u>Human Services</u></b>  Direct Care  Counseling  Art Therapy  Music Therapy  Case Management  Mental Health Services  Physical Health and Wellness  Crisis Work  Rehabilitation Services  Performance Enhancement  Testing/Assessment  Law Enforcement</p>	<p><b><u>Education</u></b>  Teaching  Adult Learning/Community Instruction, e.g. GED classes, life skills, parenting, etc.  Information/Library Science  Higher Education Administration and Student Support Services including:  Admissions  Financial Aid  Academic Advising  Development  Alumni Affairs  International Education and Study Abroad  Career Services  Residence Life  Student Activities and Greek Life  Orientation  Leadership  Multicultural Affairs  Recreational Sports</p>
<p><b><u>Occupational</u></b>  Counseling  Education  Wellness Promotion  Organizational Development  Assessment  Human Resources  Healthcare  Case Management  Counseling  Prevention and Education</p>	<p><b><u>International</u></b>  Peace Corp Volunteer/Staffer  Analyst, CIA  International Research Specialist  Foreign Service Officer  Agent, International Bureau, FBI  Consultant to Multinational Corporations  International Correspondent  International Nonprofit positions (various)  United Nations positions  Civil Military consultant</p>

Program Development Administration Research Child Life Specialists Hospice Care Rehabilitation Wellness Promotion	WorldTeach, JET, or other field experience
<u><b>Career Counseling and Human Resources</b></u> Individual and/or Group Counseling Assessment Career Planning Job Searching Employee Evaluation Program Development Outplacement	<u><b>Business and Industry</b></u> Sales Customer Service Public Relations Marketing Advertising Product Design Management Insurance Claims Management Underwriting Real Estate Property Management
<u><b>Neuroscience</b></u> Research Teaching Medicine Life Sciences	

**Who Could You Work For?**

Analysis / Forecasting Firms  
Banks / Credit Unions  
Economic Research Institutions  
Environmental Protection Agencies  
Insurance Companies  
International Trade Companies  
Investment Dealers  
Management Consulting Firms  
Market Research Houses  
Real Estate Agencies  
Statistical Research Firms  
Hospitals  
Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs  
Group homes  
Community mental health organizations

Law Enforcement  
Education: K-12 or Higher Education  
Government Agencies (Local, State and federal)  
Multiple Business Sectors  
Think Tanks/Research Institutions  
Media  
Non-Profit Organizations (NGOs) and  
International Non-Profit Organizations (INGOs)  
Hospitals/Medical Centers/Healthcare Industry  
Consulting Firms  
Residential treatment facilities  
Outpatient facilities  
Employee Assistance Programs(EAP)  
Private or group practices

### **Selection of Employers for recent (2019-2021) UMass Amherst Psychology alumni:**

- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- AmeriCorps
- Autism Learning Partners
- Barton Associates
- Bay State Community Services
- Baystate Health System
- Beacon ABA Services
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- BlackRock
- Brigham and Women's Hospital - Brigham Research Institute
- Bright Horizons
- Brightview Senior Living
- Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard
- Center for Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA)
- Center for Women and Community
- Clinical & Support Options Inc.
- Massachusetts Department of Correction
- Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Franciscan Children's
- Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General
- May Institute, Inc.
- Melmark New England
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- National Ambulance
- Next Generation Children's Center
- Open Sky Community Services
- Ora, Inc.
- Oracle
- RCS Learning Center
- Teach For America
- The New England Center for Children
- TJX Companies
- Tufts Medical Center
- Yale School of Medicine

### **Top Employers of UMass Psychology Majors after Graduation 2008-2018:**

- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Brigham & Women's Hospital
- Boston Children's Hospital
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- McLean Hospital
- Boston Public Schools
- ServiceNet
- Riverside Community Care
- MEDITECH Medical Information Technology
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

### **Some Real Life Internships of UMass Psychology Majors:**

- 4-H Center for Youth Development
- Amherst Regional Public Schools
- Bay Cove Human Services
- Berkshire County Jail and House of Corrections
- Boston University Child Cognition Lab
- Criterion Heritage Early Intervention
- Dedham Police Department
- Hampden County District Attorney's Office
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- ServiceNet Inc
- Amherst (Town of)
- Behavioral Health Network
- Berkshire Hills Music Academy
- Birthday Wishes
- Brain Balance Achievement Center
- Brattleboro Retreat
- Common School(Amherst)
- Cutchins Programs for Children/Families

- King & Bishop
- MGH Aspire
- Multi-service Eating Disorders Association (MEDA)
- National Consumer Law Center
- National Organization on Disability
- New York Children's Center
- Northwestern District Attorney's Office
- Partners HealthCare
- Pfizer
- REACH Early Intervention
- The PEAR Institute: Partnerships in Education and Resilience
- Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Full Circle Adoptions
- Henry Gets Moving
- Her Campus
- Lahey Clinic
- May Institute
- Center for Health Promotion (UMass)
- Renaissance School
- Disability Services (UMass)
- WGGB-TV CH 40
- Newman Center (UMass)
- UMass Medical School Cancer Research Lab
- Riverside Industries (RSI)

### **Actual Job Titles Attained With a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology:**

ABA Counselor	Employment Specialist
Administrative Case Manager	Field Representative
Advertising Sales Assistant	Foreign Teacher
Assistant Buyer	Healthcare Representative
Behavior Support Assistant	Intake Coordinator
Care Coordinator	Intensive Case Manager
Case Manager	Investigator
Case Worker	IT Recruiter
Clinical Research Assistant	Journalist
Counselor	Life Skills Trainer
Counselor Advocate	Mental Health
Customer Service Representative	Mental Health Counselor
Direct Support	Milieu Counselor
Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist	Nutrition Counselor
Educational Treatment Counselor	Officer – US Air Force
Paraeducator (high school)	Secret Service
Patient Services Coordinator	Service Worker
Pharmacy Technician	Special Education Aide
Play Therapist Region	Special Education Development Center/Princeton
Preschool Teacher	Substitute Teacher
Probation Officer	Support Staff/Access Services
Project Coordinator for UG Study in Psyc	Teacher
Purchasing Analyst	Teaching Assistant
Recreation Aide – Kids Peace	Therapeutic Staff
Research Assistant	U.S. Army Reserves (Recruiter/Qualifications Officer)
Research Program Assistant	USMC Officer
Residential Counselor	Volunteer/Carpenter - AmeriCorps
School Base Behavioral Health Worker	Volunteer - Mercy Volunteer Corps
Second Lieutenant -- US Air Force	Youth Counselor

## Career Planning Resources & Websites

UMass Amherst CNS Career Center [cns.umass.edu/careers](http://cns.umass.edu/careers)  
UMass Amherst Career Services Calendar [www.umass.edu/careers](http://www.umass.edu/careers)  
FOCUS2 Career and Education Planning [www.umass.edu/careers/planning](http://www.umass.edu/careers/planning) for sign-in button  
What Can I Do With This Major? <https://www.umass.edu/careers/planning>

(Click on "What Can I do with this Major" icon on the right-hand column.)

## Career Choices and Career Planning in Psychology

\* Psychology Careers by Category <http://careersinpsychology.org/psychology-careers/>  
50+ Best Jobs for Psych Undergrads <http://careersinpsychology.org/50-best-jobs-psychologists/>  
\* Many Careers for Psych Undergrads <https://www.psychologydegree411.com/careers/>  
Top Entry-Level Jobs in Psych <https://www.verywell.com/>  
\* O-Net Online <https://www.onetonline.org/find/>  
State Dept and Foreign Service Careers <http://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/officer>  
Careers with the FBI <https://www.fbijobs.gov/career-paths>  
Mass Career Info System <http://www.masscis.intocareers.org/>

(Login as Mass Resident, Adult, and Amherst 01003)

## Finding Internships in Psychology

UMass Handshake Database <https://umass.joinhandshake.com/>  
\* CNS Completed Internships Database <https://secure.cns.umass.edu/webforms/internships>  
\* Psych Dept Research Assistantships <http://www.umass.edu/pbs/RA>  
\* Psych Dept Teaching Assistantships <http://www.umass.edu/pbs/TA>  
\* Psych Dept List of Internships <http://www.umass.edu/pbs/undergraduate/internships>  
\* Psych Dept List of Actual Jobs/Internships <http://www.umass.edu/pbs/ActiveList>  
Internships and Part-Time Jobs <http://www.careerbuilder.com/>  
Federal Pathways to Govt Jobs [http://gogovernment.org/government\\_careers/students](http://gogovernment.org/government_careers/students)  
American Psychological Association (APA) <http://www.apa.org/careers/internships/>  
APA Research Opportunities <http://www.apa.org/education/undergrad>  
RIT List of Neuroscience Internships <https://people.rit.edu/gtfsbi/Symp/Neuroscience.htm>  
Amherst College List of Neuroscience Research <https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments>  
Summer Internship Program at NIH [https://www.training.nih.gov/trainees/summer\\_interns](https://www.training.nih.gov/trainees/summer_interns)  
Summer Neuroscience Research Experiences <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Discipline.aspx>  
Princeton Neuroscience Summer Internship <https://pni.princeton.edu/summer-programs>

## Finding Jobs in Psychology

\* UMass Handshake <https://umass.joinhandshake.com/>  
\* Jobs Helping the World <https://www.idealists.org/>  
\* Entry Level Psych Undergrad Jobs <https://www.wayup.com/s/entry-level-jobs/psychology/>  
Human Services Jobs <http://www.humanserviceforum.org/jobs/>  
AmeriCorps and Community Service <https://www.americorps.gov/>  
Undergrads - use Job Function "Other" <http://jobs.psychologyjobs.com>  
Social Services Jobs <http://www.careerbuilder.com/jobs-social-services>  
Jobs with the Federal Government <http://www.usajobs.gov/>  
Human Resources (HR) Jobs <http://jobs.shrm.org/>  
<http://www.hrcrossing.com/>  
<https://www.humanresourcesjobs.com/>  
<http://jobs.nehra.com/>  
<https://www.ihirehr.com/>  
<https://hr.pihra.associationcareernetwork.com/jobs/>  
<https://careers.worldatwork.org/jobseekers/>

## International Development Opportunities

Fulbright Opportunities  
Volunteer Abroad  
Intern Abroad  
Jobs in Development  
Peace Corps

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>  
<https://www.goabroad.com/volunteer-abroad>  
<https://www.goabroad.com/intern-abroad>  
<https://www.devex.com/jobs>  
[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

## Important Qualities to Include on Your Resume

**Analytical skills.** Psychologists must examine the information they collect and draw logical conclusions.

**Communication skills.** Psychologists must have strong communication skills because they spend much of their time listening to and speaking with patients or describing their research.

**Integrity.** Psychologists must keep patients' problems in confidence, and patients must be able to trust psychologists' expertise in treating sensitive problems.

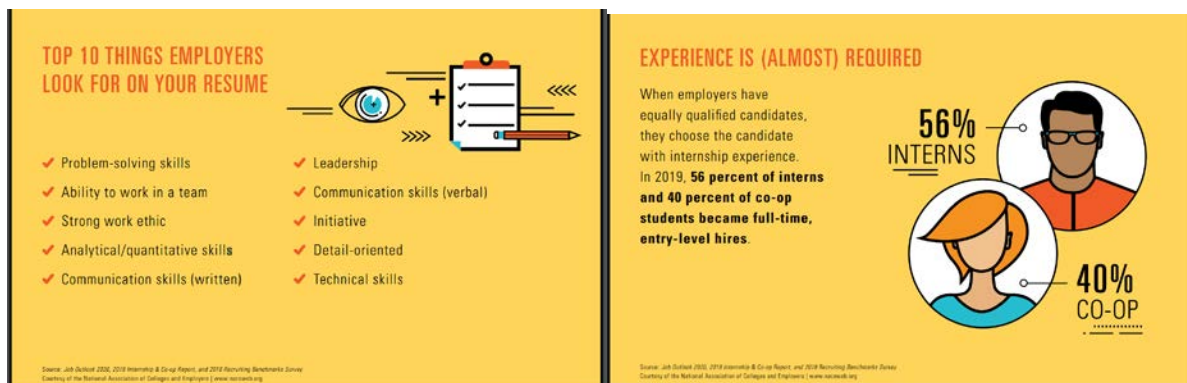
**Interpersonal skills.** Psychologists study and help individuals, so they must be able to work well with clients, patients, and other professionals.

**Observational skills.** Psychologists study attitude and behavior. They must understand the possible meanings of facial expressions, body positions, actions, and interactions.

**Patience.** Psychologists must demonstrate patience, because conducting research or treating patients may take a long time.

**Problem-solving skills.** Psychologists need problem-solving skills to collect information, design research, evaluate programs, and find treatments or solutions to mental and behavioral problems.

## What Do Employers Look For? (NACE 2020 Job Outlook for Students)



**Professional Associations** - which contain important insider's knowledge and vocabulary used in the field, as well as some job search links and other important information.

[National Institute of Mental Health](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/)

[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

[www.psychologicalscience.org](http://www.psychologicalscience.org)