

Major Possibilities: Psychology



Career Services

Southwestern University
Prothro Center, Ste. 140
512.863.1346
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers



Summary

- The psychology program is designed to provide the experiences necessary to prepare the student for graduate school in animal learning and behavior, biopsychology, child psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, counseling psychology, developmental psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, personality and social psychology, and social work.
- Job prospects are the best for people who have a doctoral degree in an applied specialty, such as counseling or health, and those with a specialist or doctoral degree in school psychology.
- The basic research, writing and analytical skills, as well as the understanding of the psyche, gained by psychology majors make the major broadly applicable as a grounding course of study for many professions in business, social services and education.

Psychology major synopsis

The Psychology program emphasizes that psychology is first a science and then a profession; it also provides students with a broad background in the field. The Psychology program is housed in the F.W. Olin Building, which has state-of-the-art facilities for conducting research with humans and animals. Students may choose to complete a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with a major in Psychology. Introduction to Statistics is required as a supporting course. Students develop skills in oral and written communication, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and quantitative reasoning. The Psychology and Education majors may be paired by counting Principles of Psychology and Developmental Psychology towards both majors.

Sample occupational areas

Psychologists study the human mind and human behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Psychologists in health service fields provide mental health care in hospitals, clinics, schools, or private settings. Psychologists employed in applied settings such as business provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology. A doctoral degree usually is required for independent practice as a psychologist. PhDs or PsyDs normally require about five to seven years of study, culminating in a dissertation. People with master's degrees in psychology have a few job options, and a bachelor's degree allows graduates to assist psychologists.

- **Clinical Psychologists** constitute the largest majority of psychologists. They work most often in counseling centers, practices, hospitals, or clinics. Areas of specialization include health psychology, neuropsychology, and geropsychology.
- **Cognitive Psychologists** study the area of the brain that deals with memory, problem solving, and language. They also do research related to computer programming and artificial intelligence.
- **Counseling Psychologists** advise people on how to deal with problems of everyday living. They work in universities, hospitals, and private practices.
- **Developmental Psychologists** study the cognitive, social and physical development that takes place throughout life. Specialties include childhood, infancy, adolescence, geriatrics, disabilities, etc.
- **Experimental or Research Psychologists** study behavioral processes with humans and animals. Some areas include motivation, learning & memory, effects of substance abuse.
- **Industrial/Organizational Psychologists** apply psychological principles to the work place and research methods to improve productivity and quality of work life.
- **School Psychologists** work with students in early childhood and elementary and secondary schools. They work in schools to resolve students' learning and behavioral problems.
- **Social Psychologists** examine people's interactions with others and with the social environment. They work in organizational consultation, marketing research, systems design, or other applied psychology fields.

Sample job titles

Government, Service & Education

Administrator
Admissions Counselor
Animal Behaviorist
Art Therapist
Behavioral Therapist
Career Advisor
Caregiver
Case Worker
Child Psychiatrist
Clinical Psychologist
Cognitive Psychologist

Counselor
EMT
Health Services
Legal Aide
Mental Health Worker
Occupational Therapist
Operations Manager
Pharmacist
Probation Officer
Program Coordinator
Recreational Therapist
Research Psychologist
Sexual Services Outreach

Social Worker
Teacher
Urban Planner

Industry and Commerce

Account Executive
Community Relations Specialist
Financial Advisor
Human Resources Manager
Insurance Agent
Labor Relations Manager
Market Research Analyst
Opinion Surveys Analyst

Sales Manager
Statistical Analyst

Arts, Media, Entertainment

Advertising Manager
Copywriter
Market Researcher/Analyst
Media Buyer/Planner
Public Relations
Reporter
Television/Media Analyst

Sample internship employers of SU students

Adult Protective Services (Austin, TX)
AIDS Services of Dallas (Dallas, TX)
The Art Station (Fort Worth, TX)
Aurora Mental Health Center (Aurora, CO)
Austism Center for Education (Austin, TX)
Brookwood (Georgetown, TX)
The Center for Children & Families (Miami, FL)
The Center for Success and Independence (Houston, TX)
Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (San Antonio, TX)
Escape Family Resource Center (Houston, TX)
Genesis Women's Shelter (Dallas, TX)
Georgetown Police Department Victim Services (Georgetown, TX)
Lifeworks (Austin, TX)
Montessori School (Georgetown, TX)
NAMI Texas (Austin, TX)
Neighborhood Technology Center (Chicago, IL)
Nueces Country MHMR (Corpus Christi, TX)
Phoenix Futures (London, UK)
Scott & White Hospital (Temple, TX)
STARRY: Children at Heart (Round Rock, TX)
Shoal Creek Hospital (Austin, TX)
Toquigny Advertising (Austin, TX)
Texas Children's Hospital (Houston, TX)
The Office of the Attorney General (Austin, TX)
UTD Center for Brain Health (Dallas, TX)
Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center (Georgetown, TX)

Possible internship sites

The American Cancer Society
American Corporate Health
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
The Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center (New York)
Brooke Army Medical Center (Fort Sam Houston)
Charleston Consortium Training Program (South Carolina)
Children's Hospice International (Virginia)
Children's National Med. Center (Washington, DC)
Dallas Metropolitan Consortium in Psychology
Federal Correctional Institution (Fort Worth, TX)
Foundation for Contemporary Mental Health
Outreach Concern, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA)
Pace University (New York, NY)
South Texas Veterans Health Care System

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Account Development Specialist (New Horizon Services)
ABA Therapist (Human Behaviors LLC)
Behavioral Therapist (Center for Autism and Related Disorders)
Business Analyst (Hewitt Associates)
Cancer Information Specialist (American Cancer Society)
Case Manager (Safeplace, Community Connections)
Children's Protective Services Specialist II
Client Services Representative (AIM Mutual Funds)
Clinical Assistant (Seton Healthcare Family)
Clinical Research Associate (Medplace)
Copyright Clericist (20th Century Fox)
Database Management (Landmark Tech.)
Dementia Care Specialist (Scott & White Healthcare)
Direct Care Staff (Austin Recovery)
Editor (Knowles Publishing)
Education Reporter (*Williamson County Sun*)
Enrichment Specialist (Anderson Cancer Center)
Enrollment Counselor (Maximus)
Executive Assistant (Federal Bar Association)
Family Preservation Case Worker (CPS)
Field Manager (Public Interest Research)
HMIS Database Administrator (Life Works Austin)
HR Assistant (Sears Customer Network)
Investor (Janus)
Juvenile Detention Officer (Williamson County)
Legal Assistant (Quan, Burdette & Perez PC)
Mental Health Associate (San Marcos Treatment Center)
Mental Health Professional (Travis County MHMR)
Office Manager (RG Cunningham & Associates)
Pharmacy Technician (NBS Pharmacy)
Psycho-Social Rehab Therapist
Psychiatric Nurse Assistant (Austin State Hospital)
Research Assistant (UT Health Science Center, San Antonio)
Service Coordinator (Austin Travis County Integral Care)
Shelter Staff (Hope Alliance)
Social Services Outreach (Capital Area Food Bank of Texas)
Social Services Specialist (American Red Cross)
Teacher (Baby Gator Child Development & Research Center)
Team Leader (AmeriCorps NCCC)
Therapeutic Childcare Specialist (Helping Hand Home for Children)
Youth Care Counselor (Meridell Achievement Center)
Zookeeper (TGR Exotics)

Professional associations

American Board of Professional Psychology: www.abpp.org
American Psychological Association: www.apa.org
Association for Psychological Science: www.psychologicalscience.org
Association for Women in Psychology: www.awpsych.org
National Mental Health Association: www.nmha.org
Psi Chi: The National Honor Society in Psychology: www.psichi.org
Society for Personality and Social Psychology: www.spsp.org

Additional Web resources

Careers in Psychology: www.allpsychologycareers.com
Encyclopedia of Psychology: www.psychology.org
Psych Web: www.psychwww.com
Psychology Career Center: www.psychologycareercenter.org
Occupational Outlook Handbook: Psychology: www.bls.gov/ooh/Life-Physical-and-Social-Science/Psychologists.htm
Social Psychology Network: www.socialpsychology.org

Career Services' print resources

Career Paths in Psychology
Careers in Psychology: Opportunities in a Changing World
Exploring Health Care Careers
Great Jobs for Psychology Majors
Majoring in Psych? Career Options for Psych Undergrads
Opportunities in Occupational Therapy Careers
Opportunities in Psychology Careers
Opportunities in Social Science Careers
Opportunities in Social Work Careers
The Psychology Major's Handbook
The Psychology Major: Career Options and Strategies for Success
What Psychology Majors Could (and Should) Be Doing