

# Major Possibilities: Psychology



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## 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, learned 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 the position that psychology is first a science and then a profession and provides students with a broad background in psychology. The Psychology program is housed in the F.W. Olin Building, which has excellent facilities for conducting research with humans and animals, including state-of-the-art aquatic animal and neuroscience research laboratories and an excellent classroom laboratory. Students may choose to complete a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with a major in Psychology. Students learn research methods, psychological testing, and different specializations of psychology.

## 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 can also do research related to computer programming and AI.
- **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

Admissions Evaluator  
Career Advisor  
Child Psychiatry  
Clinical Psychology  
Cognitive Psychology  
Counseling  
Development Psychology  
Employment Counselor  
Experimental Psychology  
Guidance Counselor  
Health Educator  
HR Administration  
Industrial Psychology

Mental Health Worker  
Nursing Psychiatry  
Occupational Therapy  
Operations Management  
Organizational Psychology  
Personnel Psychology  
Probation Officer  
Program Developer  
Recreational Therapy  
Research Psychology  
School Psychology  
Social Psychology  
Social Worker  
Teacher  
Urban Planning

### Industry and Commerce

Account Executive  
Community Relations  
Employee Assistance Director  
Employment Agency Counselor  
Financial Advisor  
Human Resources Manager  
Labor Relations Manager  
Market Research Analyst  
Merchandising Manager  
Motivational Researcher  
Opinion Surveys Analyst  
Personnel Analyst  
Sales Manager  
Statistician Analyst

### Arts, Media, Entertainment

Advertising Manager  
Advertising Researcher  
Art Therapist  
Copywriter  
Expressive Therapist  
Media Buyer  
Media Planner  
Music Therapist  
Press Liaison  
Public Relations  
Recreation Specialist  
Television/Media Analyst

### ***Sample internship employers of SU students***

Adult Protective Services (Austin, TX)  
AIDS Services of Dallas (Dallas, TX)  
Aurora Mental Children's Health Center  
Austin State Hospital (Austin, TX)  
Big Brothers Big Sisters (Georgetown, TX)  
Brookwood Community (Brookshire, TX)  
The Center for Success and Independence  
Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas Escape Family  
Resource Center (Houston, TX)  
Lifeworks (Austin, TX)  
NAMI Texas (Austin, TX)

Neighborhood Technology Center  
Nueces County MHMR  
Sheltering Harbour (Houston, TX)  
Scott & White Hospital (Temple, TX)  
STARRY: Children at Heart (Round Rock, TX)  
Toquigny Advertising, Interactive Marketing  
Texas Children's Hospital (Houston, TX)  
The Office of the Attorney General (Austin, TX)  
Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (Waco, TX)  
Williamson County Crisis 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***

Activity Leader (Lifeworks)  
Business Analyst (Hewitt Associated)  
Case Manager (Safeplace)  
Children's Protective Services Specialist II  
Client Services Rep (AIM Mutual Funds)  
Database Management (Landmark Tech.)  
Editor (Knowles Publishing)  
Enrichment Specialist (Anderson Cancer Center)  
Enrollment Counselor (Maximus)  
Executive Assistant (Federal Bar Association)  
Family Preservation Case Worker (CPS)  
Field Manager (Public Interest Research)  
HR Assistant (Sears Customer Network)  
Inside Sales Executive (Apple Computer, Inc.)

Inside Sales Representative (Suncoast Resource)  
Investor (Janus)  
Job Trainer (Goodwill Industries)  
Juvenile Detention Officer (Williamson County)  
Mental Health Technician  
Office Manager (RG Cunningham & Associates)  
Psycho-Social Rehab Therapist  
Research Assistant (Addiction & Substance Abuse Center)  
Second Lieutenant (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Social Services Specialist (American Red Cross)  
Teacher (Westlake Children's School)  
Technical Services Recruiter (Cyber Tech)  
Therapeutic Childcare Specialist (Helping Hand Home for  
Children)

### ***Professional associations***

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

### ***Additional Web resources***

Encyclopedia of Psychology: [www.psychology.org](http://www.psychology.org)  
Psych Web: [www.psychwww.com](http://www.psychwww.com)  
Social Psychology Network: [www.socialpsychology.org](http://www.socialpsychology.org)

### ***Career Services' print resources***

Career Paths in Psychology  
Careers in Counseling & Human Development  
Careers in Psychology  
Great Jobs for Psychology Majors  
Majoring in Psych - Psych Undergrads  
Opportunities in Counseling & Development 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