**What can I do with a B.A. in Psychology?***Adapted from Kuther & Morgan (2013)*

The knowledge and skills developed by undergraduate psychology majors prepare them for a variety of jobs. This is because the psychology major has a solid foundation in the liberal arts, which means that students learn to think critically, problem solve, develop analytical skills and become independent life-long learners.

What you can do with a degree in psychology will depend on your level of educational attainment. For example, certain jobs are only available to individuals with advanced degrees (e.g., in order to be licensed as a clinical or counseling psychologist, an individual must have a doctoral degree; in order to be licensed as a school psychologist an individual must have a master’s degree)

Nonetheless, there are many job opportunities for individuals with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Some of these jobs are in the fields of mental health and social service, while some are in other sectors, such as retail and legal settings. The table below provides a general list of common jobs of interest to psychology majors along with information about median salary and expected growth through 2022.

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| **Potential Job Title by Subfield** | **Description of Typical Responsibilities** | **Salary Information** |
| **Clinical & Counseling** | Individuals in this subfield assist people suffering from various forms of psychological distress | **Please note that salaries vary greatly by state and according to level of experience** |
| Human Services Worker | Human service workers often work as paraprofessionals supporting the work of clinical or counseling psychologists in community settings case managers, mental health aides, life skills counselor, gerontology aid, youth worker, etc…Work activities include conducting needs assessments, providing help with daily living activities, providing social support, organizing group activities, helping clients obtain services and to participate in their treatment plans | Median Salary ~ 28,000  Expected growth rate through 2022 is 22 % |
| Social Worker | Entry-level social worker positions are sometimes available for individuals with a BA in psychology. Activities include the identification of needs, identifying and accessing needed services, and providing counseling | Median Salary ~ 39,000  Expected growth rate through 2022 is 15 % |
| Substance Abuse Counselor | Provide counseling or rehabilitation services in residential treatment programs or as part of comprehensive outpatient substance abuse programs. They facilitate therapy groups, educate clients about addiction, and provide support in recovery. It is possible to become a certified substance abuse counselor through the completion of 4 substance abuse counseling courses and a # of hours of supervised experience. Note that completion of the Substance Abuse minor at Ramapo meets the requirements for certification as a substance abuse counselor | Media Salary ~ 38,000  Expected growth rate through 2022 is 22 % |
| **Developmental Psychology** | Use research and theory related to development in applied settings that may serve individuals at any point in the life span and develop and implement interventions that aim to optimize development |  |
| Gerontology Aide | Social and human service assistants specializing in the provision of direct and indirect services to older adults, such as health promotion programs, recreational activities, and intergenerational activities in senior centers or retirement communities. | Media Salary ~ 28,000  Expected growth rate through 2022 is 22 % |
| Child Life Specialist | Work in hospital settings to help children & their families adjust to hospitalization, implementing programs and activities with children, assisting and educating families in the care of hospitalized or disabled children, and helping children cope with medical interventions while promoting social and emotional development. | Media Salary ~ 41,000  Expected growth rate through 2022 is 20 % |

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| **Psychology in the Schools** | Individuals in this subfield work with educators, children and their families to support the development of children in their educational context. |  |
| Teacher | A career path in teaching requires obtaining a “teacher certification” which can be done concurrently as you complete a BA in psychology. A teaching career provides the opportunity to be involved in and to positively influence the lives of children or adolescents. Teachers are responsible for a variety of instructional duties which can be enhanced through by their knowledge and skills as psychology majors. | Median Salary ~ 53,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 8% |
| Teacher Assistant | Perform a combination of instructional and clerical duties in support of the academic and social development of children in schools | Median Salary ~ 23,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| Childcare Worker | Childcare workers work in childcare centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, private homes, and after-school programs. Their responsibilities include caring for children and engaging them in activities that promote their development | Median Salary ~ 20,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| Early Childhood Behavioral Specialist | Use their knowledge of theories of child development to develop behavioral interventions for children experiencing a variety of behavioral difficulties or disabilities. | Median Salary ~ 41,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 15% |
| **Health Psychology** | Individuals in this area study and address the psychological influence on health, illness, prevention, and treatment compliance behavior. They often develop and implement strategies to help individuals improve or maintain their health. |  |
| Recreational Therapist | Provide treatment and recreational activities to individuals with physical or psychological disabilities in various settings (medical, community, prison setting, etc…) | Median Salary ~ 42,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 15% |
| Occupational Therapy Assistant | Aid occupational therapists in providing rehabilitative services to individuals with various physical, developmental or psychological impairments. Services may focus on developing abilities necessary for independent living or for entry-level employment. | Median Salary ~ 53,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 22% |
| Physical Therapy Assistant | Aid physical therapists in providing treatment and intervention to individuals suffering from pain, loss of mobility, or other physical disabilities. | Median Salary ~ 52,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 22% |
| Health Educator | Educate individuals and groups about healthy lifestyles and wellness, relying on knowledge of health related issues such as diet, exercise, stress, and other problem behaviors. In their role, health educators are responsible to identify community needs and to develop and implement educational programs that meet those needs. | Median Salary ~ 48,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 21% |
| **Psychology in Legal & Forensic Fields** | Involves the application of psychology to various aspects of the legal system. Note that criminal profiling is a rare activity in general. Individuals with a BA in psychology may work in various settings of the legal system including jails, prisons, courts, & community mental health centers. |  |
| Police Officer | The responsibilities of police officers include the protection of citizens in a community and the implementation of effective responses to emergency situations through various law enforcement activities. Understanding psychology is beneficial in these activities (for example for understanding how to best resolve conflicts, communicate with a diverse population of citizens with various needs, and for providing effective leadership and supervision of peers) | Median Salary ~ 55,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Correctional Officer | Work in jails and prison facilities to maintain the well-being of offenders. Skills are similar to those of police officers (see above) | Median Salary ~ 39,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Juvenile Detention Worker | Like corrections officers, but working in facilities that house juvenile offenders. In these settings, responsibilities may include the implementation of rehabilitation programs | Median Salary ~ 39,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Probation or Parole Officer | Supervise offenders in the community to ensure that they are in compliance with the stipulations of their parole or probation. Also assist offenders in obtaining needed services and treatment needed to avoid further incarceration. | Median Salary ~ 48,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 0% |
| Forensic Science Technician | Individuals in this position will work in conjunction with law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes & analyze evidence. Most individuals in this field specialize in a particular area of investigation (accounting, chemistry, computer science, etc…) | Median Salary ~ 52,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| **Sport Psychology** | Address various aspects of performance related to psychology and work to develop and implement interventions to improve performance and other life endeavors |  |
| Fitness Instructor & Recreational Worker | Develop, plan, organize and direct recreational activities for children and / or adults in various context including nursing homes, educational settings, health clubs, community service centers, etc…positions may include recreational program directors, camp counselors, etc… | Median Salary ~ 31,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| Physical Education Teacher | Similar to teachers (above) and require teacher certification. Involve a focus on physical development, training & sports performance | Median Salary ~ 53,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 8% |
| Sport Instructors and Coaches | Work with individuals or a team of athletes to enhance skills and performance; Sport instructors are often hired to teach and develop specific skills while coaches are hired to lead teams | Median Salary ~ 28,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 21% |
| **Neuropsychology** | This branch of psychology focuses on the relationship between brain physiology and behavior |  |
| Research Technician | Maintain scientific laboratories, operate and maintain laboratory equipment, assist in the implementation of research and data collection in consultation with scientists | Median Salary ~ 37,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 15% |
| Psychiatric Technician | Assisting psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in the care of the mentally ill; may also develop specialized skills such as providing biofeedback in a clinic or EEG services in a sleep disorders treatment center. | Median Salary ~ 30,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Clinical Laboratory Technician | Maintain scientific laboratories, operate and maintain laboratory equipment, prepare specimens and conduct various tests and chemical analyses of body fluids, such as blood or urine to detect abnormalities or diseases | Median Salary ~ 37,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 22% |
| Pharmacy Technician | Work in retail pharmacies to assist pharmacists in the distribution of medication and information to customers. Responsibilities typically include verification of customer & prescription information, the performance of various clerical duties, the preparation of medication, etc… | Median Salary ~ 29,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 21% |

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| **Industrial & Organizational Psychology** | Individuals in these areas focus on how individuals behave in the work setting, participating in the selection, placement, training & evaluation of individual workers. At the organizational level, individuals in this area work to understand how workers, policies, and organizational structures contribute to the success of a work environment. |  |
| Human Resources | Support the management of an organization’s employees-including recruitment, placement, administering salaries and benefits, training, conducting research on employee needs and satisfaction. Various positions are available in these contexts that may involve a specific function (such as training) | Median Salary ~ 55,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 15% |
| Administrative Assistant/Office Manager | Participate in office management and supporting the activities of executive staff; coordinate administrative and information management activities within an office, train new staff, schedule meetings, maintain files, manage databases, produce reports & manage projects | Median Salary ~ 49,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| **Experimental & Quantitative Psychology** | Conduct and interpret research; involves research design, development and implementation of measurement methods, and data collection and analysis |  |
| Insurance Underwriter | Evaluate risk of loss, determines appropriate premium rates, and writes insurance policies to cover a client’s risk of loss using data gathering, computer software, and analysis skills | Median Salary ~ 62,000  Expected growth to 2022 is -2% |
| Computer Programmer | Use technology and write programs to solve problems; a minor in computer science or management information systems would help you to prepare for this career in addition to developing an understanding of human problem solving in psychology | Median Salary ~ 74,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| Computer Support Specialist | Provide technical support to users of hardware, software & computer systems with the aim of solving computer-related problems; a minor in computer science or management information systems would help you to prepare for this career | Median Salary ~46,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 21% |
| Budget Analyst | Organize and provide data to an organization to help make decisions about allocation of financial and other resources and to improve efficiency; Additional coursework in mathematics, statistics and accounting would help to prepare you for this career | Median Salary ~ 69,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| **Social & Consumer Psychology** | Jobs in this area involve an understanding of the ways people interact with each other and their environments; on the consumer side, the focus is on how we process marketing information and engage in purchasing behavior |  |
| Advertising | Work to help companies to market their products using your knowledge of human behavior; multiple entry-level positions are available in this area including account management, advertising clerk, positions in media departments | Median Salary ~ 88,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Real Estate | Intermediaries between buyers and sellers of real estate; the work involves marketing, advertising, assessment of client needs, supporting clients with financing processes & drawing up of contracts | Median Salary ~ 39,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |
| Retail | Sell goods, provide customer service, and help buyers make purchasing decisions. Use an understanding of customer behavior, sales techniques, and product information to generate sales.  At the management level, retail managers are responsible for the operations and activities of a retail store. | Median Salary ~ 21,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14%  Median Salary *for managers* ~36,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 7% |
| Public Relations Specialist | Build and maintain relationships with the public in order to inform the community about the organizations policies, achievements, and activities. Communicate an organization’s message to a community by writing and distributing press releases , arranging speaking engagements & editing speeches for company leaders | Median Salary ~ 54,000  Expected growth to 2022 is 14% |