

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD



CAREERS INVOLVING POST BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Professional Titles

Psychiatrists – medical doctors specializing in the treatment of mental disorders who have privileges to treat psychiatric problems with prescription drugs.

Research Psychologists – doctorate level professionals who conduct research and denote scientific observations to enhance understanding of human behavior and the mind.

Applied Psychologists – doctorate level professionals who apply psychological principles and theories to practical problems in order to enhance performance, efficiency, or effectiveness.

Clinical Psychologists – doctorate level professionals who counsel clients with psychological problems and disorders by utilizing a variety of therapeutic techniques.

Counseling Psychologists – doctorate level professionals who also counsel clients, but typically work with clients who have adjustment problems and seek to help individuals regain normal functioning at school, work, or home.

Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) – master's level professionals who counsel relatively healthy clients by promoting a wellness-model (rather than mental illness) to help individuals discover a fulfilling and productive life.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) – master's level professionals who use therapeutic techniques to counsel individuals, couples, families, and groups to improve the clients' interpersonal functions and quality of relationships.

Advanced Degrees

Master's Degree – two to three year post baccalaureate degree providing training in a specialty area such as school psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, rehabilitation counseling, etc., which allows individuals to work in a variety of settings. Professionals with a master's degree are typically supervised by a PhD level psychologist.

PhD – four to five year post baccalaureate doctoral degree focusing heavily on research and training in a specialty area of psychology such as: clinical, counseling, cognitive, developmental, industrial/organizational, educational, experimental, social and personality, neuropsychology, etc. A PhD allows professionals to work independently or within institutions such as a university. A doctoral degree in education is sometimes labeled an EdD which indicates different coursework requirements related to education.

PsyD – four year post baccalaureate doctoral degree for practitioners in clinical or counseling psychology specializations. In comparison with a PhD, this type of program has less emphasis on completing research related to the specialization. Instead, a PsyD focuses on enhancing applied clinical skills and is usually offered at private institutions and professional schools.

MD – doctoral degree for physicians. This advanced post-graduate clinical degree is granted upon completion of medical school. Medical students can specialize in psychiatry in order to apply for licensure as a psychiatrist.

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

Although a bachelor's degree in psychology does not give you the merit to work as a "psychologist" there are plenty of job opportunities at this level related to psychology, business, and other disciplines.

JOB TITLES WITHIN PSYCHOLOGY

Community/Family Services

- Alcohol/drug abuse counselor
- Case management aide
- Case worker
- Child protection worker
- Community support worker
- Community outreach worker
- Eligibility worker
- Family services worker
- Group home coordinator
- Life skill counselor
- Mental retardation unit manager
- Rehabilitation advisor
- Social services assistant
- Social services director
- Veterans advisor

Clinical Counseling

- Applied behavior analyst
- Behavioral health technician
- Counselor aide
- Gerontology aide
- Hospital patient service representative
- Mental health technician
- Psychology technician
- Residential counselor
- Residential youth counselor

Higher Ed/Career Planning

- Academic advisor
- Career counselor
- Career planning and placement counselor
- College admissions officer
- Employment counselor
- Housing/student life coordinator
- Secondary school teacher
- Vocational rehabilitation counselor

JOB TITLES IN OTHER DISCIPLINES

Business/Finance

- Advertising agent
- Claims specialist
- Congressional aide
- Customer service
- Bank management
- Director of fundraising
- Insurance agent
- Insurance claims
- Lobbying organizer
- Loan officer
- Marketing representative
- Media buyer
- Office/store manager
- Political campaign worker
- Property management
- Restaurant management
- Sales representative

Administration/Personnel Services

- Activity director
- Educational coordinator
- Employee relations assistant
- Events coordinator
- Human relations director
- Human resources recruiter
- Personnel worker/administrator
- Program manager

- Public affairs coordinator
- Public relations specialist
- Staff training and development
- Task force coordinator
- Work activity program director

Human Services/Public Safety

- Affirmative action representative
- Assistant youth coordinator
- Camp staff director
- Childcare worker
- Community recreation worker
- Community relations officer
- Corrections officer
- Crime prevention coordinator
- Day care center supervisor
- Director of alumni relations
- Director of volunteer services
- Juvenile probation officer
- Law enforcement
- Neighborhood outreach worker
- Nursing home administrator
- Park and recreation director
- Parole officer
- Public information officer
- Security officer
- Teaching/private tutor
- Volunteer coordinator
- Youth minister

Research

- Film researcher/copywriter
- Financial researcher
- Laboratory assistant
- Newspaper reporter
- Occupational analyst
- Publications researcher
- Radio/TV research assistant
- Research/statistical assistant
- Statistical reports compiler
- Technical/scientific writer
- Urban planning research assistant

