Sample career paths for psychology majors

**Psychiatrist**

Environment: Psychiatrists may work with patients in private offices or in hospitals or clinics. They may also do research, studying the causes and treatment of mental illness. Some psychiatrists teach in medical schools or in special psychiatric institutes. Others write or edit psychiatric books or journals.

Job Responsibilities: Psychiatrists can prescribe medicine, therapy, and other forms of treatment to patients with mental health problems. They specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders. They treat patients with mild cases of anxiety as well as those with severe disorders that can cause dangerous and bizarre behavior. Psychiatrists may also diagnose mental retardation and treat alcoholism. Psychiatrists can also teach, take continuing education classes, attend conferences and seminars, and conduct research and publish findings to increase understanding of mental, emotional, and behavioral states and disorders.

Pay: $77.04 hourly, $160,230 annual

Education/Training: As undergraduate students, many future psychiatrists choose pre-med, biology or psychology coursework. Psychiatrists are medical doctors who complete 4 years of medical school. Then, during four years of residency, the new doctor receives training in mental health care by working directly with patients in clinics or hospitals. Also must hold a medical license and certification from ABPN.

Growth Potential: 20% or higher

**Medical and Health Services Manager:**

Environment: Some manager’s work in comfortable, private offices; others share space with other staff. Many medical and health services managers work long hours. Nursing care facilities and hospitals operate around the clock; administrators and managers may be called at all hours to deal with problems. They also travel to attend meetings or to inspect satellite facilities.

Job Responsibilities: Medical and health services managers must be prepared to deal with the integration of healthcare delivery systems, technological innovations, an increasingly complex regulatory environment, restructuring of work, and an increased focus on preventive care. They will be called on to improve efficiency in healthcare facilities and the quality of the care provided. In addition, they might do more community outreach and preventive care than do managers of a group practice and oversee the activities of a number of facilities in health systems.
Pay: $39.35 hourly, $81,850 annual

Education/Training: A master's degree in one of a number of fields is the standard credential for most generalist positions as a medical or healthcare manager. A bachelor's degree is sometimes adequate for entry-level positions in smaller facilities and departments. In physicians' offices and some other facilities, on-the-job experience may substitute for formal education. A master's degree in health services administration, long-term care administration, health sciences, public health, public administration, or business administration is the standard credential for most generalist positions in this field.

Growth Potential: 14% to 19%

School Counselors/ School Psychologists

School Counselors/ School Psychologists will typically work in a school setting. It may involve different tasks around the school, but a majority of the time it will be in an office within the school. It is a career that has office work. Background knowledge in psychology, therapy and counseling, English, sociology and anthropology, computers, administration and management is required.

Job responsibilities include counseling individuals/students to help them overcome personal, educational, behavioral, or social problems and finding a way to intervene when these difficult situations occur at school. Must be able to meet with parents, guardians, school staff, and other professionals to discuss the child's progress or find a solution, and maintain accurate and complete student records (this is required by law). Prepares students for later educational or work experiences, and helps them career plan. Tries to identify cases of domestic abuse or other family problems, and if found provide counseling to the student and family to resolve conflicts, as well as report any pertinent information to the proper authorities. Compiles and interprets student's test results (psychological tests as well). Collects and analyzes data to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

For a school counselor the median hourly wage is $25.27, $52,550 annually. For a school psychologist the median hourly wage is $31.75, $66,040 annually.

For a school counselor/ school psychologist, majority require a master's degree, some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree) Projected job growth: school counselor: 14% to 19%, school psychologist: 7% to 13%

Public Relations Manager / Labor Relations Specialist

Public Relations Managers / Labor Relations Specialists typically work in an office for a particular company. However, while working in the office they will also conduct outside contact with other companies, face-to-face discussions, deal with external customers, and work with a group or team on some projects. Background knowledge in customer/personal service, communications, English, administration and management, personnel/human resources, human services, and computers is required.
Job responsibilities include meeting with people outside of the organization (customers, public, government, partner agencies), establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships, and identifying/organizing/planning actions and events. This job involves working directly with the public, interacting with computers, and decision making and problem solving. One must be skilled in social perceiving, critical thinking and writing, judgment and decision making, active listening and speaking.

Median hourly wage is $43.12, $89,690 annually. Majority of these occupations require a Bachelor's degree Expected growth: 7% to 13%

Mental Health Care Worker

Mental Health Counselor

Encourage clients to express feelings and elicit discussion that may lead to insights regarding themselves and relationships. This may be done through interviews, discussions, observations, and tests. Required to fill out and maintain client paper work, diagnostic records, and notes. Must maintain client confidentiality. Need a strong base of psychology and therapy and counseling theories and methodologies. Job requires strong active listening skills and social perceiving.

Median Pay (2009) $38,010
Growth Potential: 20%
Education level: Master’s required for most

Clinical Psychologist

Using information gathered from interviews, tests, and records clinical psychologists need to identify psychological, emotional, and/or behavioral issues and diagnose disorders. Need to be able to design and implement treatment plans for individuals, as well as evaluate effectiveness of treatment and modify accordingly. Write client reports and maintain paperwork. Work with clients to modify behaviors and or to improve on personal, social, and vocational adjustment. Job requires good skills in active listening and social perceiving.

Median Pay (2009): $66,040
Growth Potential: 7-13%
Education Level: Almost all jobs require Doctoral or Professional Degree (87%)

Social and Community Service Managers

Evaluate staff and volunteers to ensure program quality and use of resources. Provide direct services to support individuals or clients (services could be broad). Work to recruit, interview, and hire volunteers and staff. Work with other similar agencies to organize and plan community events and to make sure services are not duplicated. Direct staff and volunteer activities. Plan and administer budget for program. Job requires a strong knowledge base in customer and
personal services and administration and management. Skills are required in listening, time management, coordination, and effective speech.

Median pay (2009): $56,600 (difference may be present in smaller non-profit organization)  
Growth potential: 14-19%  
Education level: Majority Bachelors, some with Masters level, very few have doctoral level training.

Social Worker

Provide psychosocial support to persons, families, children and vulnerable populations to improve their well being. This could be in a hospital setting, school setting, government agency, or clinic. Requires a strong background in human interaction, therapy, counseling, and the legal process.

You are responsible for advocating for clients, collaborating with other professionals, counseling clients, organizing support groups and monitoring/evaluating/record ing client progress.

Median Pay (2009): 46,300 annual  
Growth Potential: "much faster than average" (20% or higher)  
Education Level: Masters

Research Assistant

Assist research scientists, collect data, conduct statistical analysis, submit documentation. Can work for large companies or for the government. You can also find this kind of work in an academic setting.

Requires knowledge of human behavior and performance, research methods and assessment, management, mathematics up to calculus and statistics, knowledge of group dynamics and some clerical skills.

Median Pay (2009) 37,500  
Growth Potential: 14-19%  
Education level: Bachelors or Masters

Psychology Professor

Prepare and deliver lectures to undergraduate or graduate students on topics such as abnormal psychology, cognitive processes, and work motivation. Evaluate and grade students' class work, laboratory work, assignments, and papers. Prepare course materials such as syllabi, homework assignments, and handouts. Plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, course materials, and methods of instruction. Keep abreast of developments in the field by reading current literature, talking with colleagues, and participating in professional conferences. Depending on the institution, may be required to maintain an active research program including publishing
articles in academic journals. May also supervise undergraduate or graduate teaching, internship, and research work.

Education: Doctorate (70%) or Masters (30%)
Median wages (2009): $65,760 annual
Projected growth (2008-2018): Faster than average (14% to 19%)

Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists

• Prepare and maintain case folder for each assigned inmate or offender.
• Write reports describing offenders' progress.
• Inform offenders or inmates of requirements of conditional release, such as office visits, restitution payments, or educational and employment stipulations.
• Discuss with offenders how such issues as drug and alcohol abuse and anger management problems might have played roles in their criminal behavior.
• Gather information about offenders' backgrounds by talking to offenders, their families and friends, and other people who have relevant information.
• Develop rehabilitation programs for assigned offenders or inmates, establishing rules of conduct, goals, and objectives.
• Develop liaisons and networks with other parole officers, community agencies, correctional institutions, psychiatric facilities, and aftercare agencies to plan for helping offenders with life adjustments.
• Arrange for medical, mental health, or substance abuse treatment services according to individual needs or court orders.
• Provide offenders or inmates with assistance in matters concerning detainers, sentences in other jurisdictions, writs, and applications for social assistance.
• Arrange for postrelease services, such as employment, housing, counseling, education, and social activities.

Education: Bachelors (62%), Associates (15%), College classes but no degree (20%)
Median wages (2009): $22.37 hourly, $46,530 annual
Projected growth (2008-2018): Faster than average (14% to 19%)

Administrative Services Managers

• Direct or coordinate the supportive services department of a business, agency, or organization.
• Prepare and review operational reports and schedules to ensure accuracy and efficiency.
• Set goals and deadlines for the department.
• Acquire, distribute and store supplies.
• Analyze internal processes and recommend and implement procedural or policy changes to improve operations, such as supply changes or the disposal of records.
• Plan, administer and control budgets for contracts, equipment and supplies.
• Monitor the facility to ensure that it remains safe, secure, and well-maintained.
• Hire and terminate clerical and administrative personnel.
• Oversee the maintenance and repair of machinery, equipment, and electrical and mechanical systems.
• Oversee construction and renovation projects to improve efficiency and to ensure that facilities meet environmental, health, and security standards, and comply with government regulations.

Education: Minimum of high school degree, most have some college, about 30% have a bachelors degree
Median wages (2009): $36.31 hourly, $75,520 annual
Projected growth (2008-2018): Average (7% to 13%)

Training and Development Specialists

• Monitor, evaluate and record training activities and program effectiveness.
• Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
• Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors or customer representatives.
• Develop alternative training methods if expected improvements are not seen.
• Organize and develop, or obtain, training procedure manuals and guides and course materials such as handouts and visual materials.
• Present information, using a variety of instructional techniques and formats such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos and lectures.
• Evaluate training materials prepared by instructors, such as outlines, text, and handouts.
• Design, plan, organize and direct orientation and training for employees or customers of industrial or commercial establishment.
• Monitor training costs to ensure budget is not exceeded, and prepare budget reports to justify expenditures.
• Select and assign instructors to conduct training.

Education: Most have a bachelors degree, some have a masters
Median wages (2009): $25.06 hourly, $52,120 annual
Projected growth (2008-2018): Much faster than average (20% or higher)