PSYCHOLOGY CAREERS

BACHELORS AND MASTERS LEVEL

TODAY’S AGENDA

• Bachelors-Level Careers
• Masters-Level Careers
• Bachelors v. Masters v. Doctoral (Pros and Cons)
• Questions
WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?

BACHELORS-LEVEL CAREERS

• At the Bachelors level, you learn about psychology. You don’t learn how to do psychology.

• General Industries
  • Human Services
  • Government
  • Education
  • Business
HUMAN SERVICES

• Adult care worker
• Behavioral aide
• Case worker
• Counselor’s assistant
• Child care worker
• Community outreach
• Director of volunteer services
• Family support worker
• Gerontology aide
• Group home coordinator
• Mental health program manager
• Outreach worker
• Rehabilitation advisor
• Residential youth counselor
• Student life coordinator

**Pros**
• Work directly with people in need everyday
• Ability to make a difference in people’s lives
• Many jobs available all the time (in-demand)
• Great experience for getting into grad school later

**Cons**
• High rate of burn-out
• Low pay ($20-30K)
• Limited upward mobility without Masters degree
• Expected to do a lot with limited resources
GOVERNMENT

Pros
• Work directly with people in need everyday
• Ability to make a difference in people’s lives
• Great experience for getting into grad school later
• Great benefits and job security

Cons
• High rate of burn-out
• Low pay ($30-40K)
• Limited upward mobility without Masters degree
• Expected to do a lot with limited resources
EDUCATION

- After-school program coordinator
- Admissions counselor
- Child care provider
- College recruiter
- Community health educator
- English teacher in foreign countries
- Preschool teacher
- Para-educator
- Research assistant
- Teach for America
- Elementary or High School Teacher
  - Requires one-year of post-baccalaureate course work

EDUCATION

**Pros**
- Work directly with people in need everyday
- Ability to make a difference in the lives of children and young adults

**Cons**
- Low Pay ($20-30K)
- Limited upward mobility without teaching certificate or Masters degree
- Travel required for some of the jobs
BECOMING A TEACHER

• If you did not major in Education, you can still become an elementary or high school teacher.
• Earning your teaching certificate requires one year of post-baccalaureate course work through the College of Education.
• There are also Masters of Education program where you earn your teaching certificate and masters degree in one program.

BUSINESS

• Advertising agent
• Entrepreneur
• Human resources
  • Employee development
  • Training coordinator
  • Recruiter
  • Affirmative action
  • Benefits
• Manager
• Sales
• Public affairs coordinator
• Public relations specialist
  • Research
  • Programming
  • Fundraising
  • Public Speaking
• Publisher/Editor
• Radio/TV research assistant
• Retail manager
BUSINESS

Pros
• Higher salary ($30-40K)
• More opportunities for upward mobility
• Psychology skills translate well to business setting

Cons
• Not working in a helping profession or with people in need
• Business experience will not help you get into grad school for psychology later

LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE

• Critical Thinking
• Life-Long Learning
• Logic and Reasoning
• Self Management
• Self Empowerment
• Social Responsibility
• Communication Skills
• Analytical Thinking

• A Sense of Values & Ethics
• Global Awareness
• Teamwork
• Leadership Skills
• Computer and Other Technology Skills
• Time Management
HOW TO GET A BACHELORS-LEVEL JOB

• Experience, Experience, Experience!!!
  • Volunteering
  • Part-time job
  • Internship
• At least one year of experience
• Three people to serve as professional references
  • You don’t have to have any faculty, but it would look good.
• Resume
  • Work with Career Services (230 Union)

MASTERS-LEVEL CAREERS

• Masters-level Careers - Therapists
  • Counseling
  • Social Work
  • Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)

• Other Masters-level Careers in Psychology
  • School Counseling
  • School Psychology
  • Industrial/Organizational Psychology

• Masters-level Careers outside of Psychology
MASTERS-LEVEL THERAPIST

- Masters in Counseling
  - Mental Health
  - Community

- Masters in Social Work

- Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy

MASTERS OF COUNSELING

- Mental Health Counseling
  - Leads to becoming a masters-level licensed therapist
  - In Nebraska, the title is Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP)
  - Clients will include individuals, couples, families, and groups
  - Clients will present with a wide variety of adjustment and mental health issues
  - Focuses more on mental health issues
MASTERS OF COUNSELING

• Community Counseling
  • Leads to becoming a masters-level licensed therapist
  • In Nebraska, the title is Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP)
  • Clients will include individuals, couples, families, and groups
  • Clients will present with a wide variety of adjustment and mental health issues
  • Focuses more on social service needs

MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK

• Masters of Social Work
  • Leads to becoming a Licensed Master of Social Work (MSW)
  • Clients will include individuals, couples, families, and groups
  • Clients will present with a wide variety of adjustment and mental health issues
  • Some Social Work programs require you to have a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work or take a year of prerequisites if you do not. Others programs accept non-social work majors.
  • Social Workers can practice independently
MASTERS OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

• Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy
  • Leads to becoming a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)
  • Clients will include individuals, couples, families, and groups
  • Clients will present with a wide variety of adjustment and mental health issues
  • Usually offered through Family Science departments

MASTERS V. DOCTORAL-LEVEL THERAPIST

Masters - Cons
• Less pay ($30-50K)
• May need to be supervised by doctoral-level therapist
• May not be able to perform some tasks such as assessment or diagnosis
• Level of autonomy varies by state

PhD/PsyD - Cons
• Longest time to earn degree (5-6 years)
• Highest competition for admission
• Focus on research (PhD)
• Relocation
• Administrative duties
MASTERS V. DOCTORAL-LEVEL THERAPIST

Masters - Pros
• Short time to earn degree (2-3 years)
• Easier acceptance into program
• Less-focused on research
• More jobs available in the job market
• Being allowed more and more autonomy by law

PhD/PsyD - Pros
• Allows for the most autonomy in practicing independently
• Allows for the most broad set of skills and abilities
• Allows for the highest level of upward mobility
• Highest pay ($60-80K)

OTHER MASTERS-LEVEL CAREERS
SCHOOL COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY

- Masters of School Counseling
  - Leads to becoming a School Counselor (Guidance Counselor)
  - Provide educational and vocational guidance to students. Help resolve academic, behavioral, or personal issues that may be blocking success.
  - In Nebraska and many other states, you must have your teaching certificate and teach for 2 years before you can become a School Counselor

- Educational Specialist degree School Psychology (Ed.S.)
  - Leads to becoming a licensed School Psychologist
  - Provide assistance with the learning and education process. Diagnosis and treat learning and behavior problems.

INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Masters in I/O Psychology
  - Apply principles of psychology to human resources, administration, management, sales, and marketing problems.
  - In-demand field
  - High salary ($50-80K)
  - Some programs may require some business courses as prerequisites
MASTERS OUTSIDE OF PSYCHOLOGY

- Student Affairs
- Health Promotion / Public Health
- MBA (Masters in Business Administration)
- Communication Studies
- Youth Development
- Leadership Development
- Public Relations
- Community and Regional Planning
- Public Administration
- Legal Studies
- Genetic Counseling
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Communication Disorders
- Applied Behavior Therapy
- Child Development/Early Childhood Education
- Gerontology
- Urban Studies
- Educational Administration
- Survey & Behavioral Statistics
- Psychiatric Nursing

RESEARCH

- Not required for Bachelors-level careers, but helpful for building resume and professional references
- Required for most Masters programs at larger schools
- Not required for most Masters programs at smaller schools
- “Scientist-practitioner” means you need some research
- “Competency-based” or “Practitioner-based” means you probably don’t need research
QUESTIONS?