

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

HUMAN SERVICES

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

- Case worker
- Child protection worker
- Corrections officer
- Family services worker
- Foreign Service Officer
- Juvenile intake worker
- Law enforcement officer
- Parole officer
- Probation officer
- Program development
- Psychiatric technician
- Rehabilitation advisor
- Residential youth counselor
- Research assistant
- Veteran's advisor

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?