Career Options with Your Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S.) in Psychology

Nationally, psychology is one of the top five most popular bachelor's degrees with over 125,000 granted per year[1]. Some of these graduates choose to pursue master's or doctoral education, but many enter directly into the workforce.

So, what can you do with your bachelor's degree in psychology if you seek a job rather than graduate school? Plenty! As a student who has studied psychology, your ability to communicate effectively, reason carefully, and understand people have value to employers in a variety of fields[2].

Social Services & Mental Health

These jobs often involve helping people directly. They can also provide valuable experience if you intend to eventually pursue graduate study in counseling, social work, or clinical psychology. Some positions include:

- Case manager
- Behavioral technician
- Psychiatric technician
- Residential counselor
- Crisis intervention specialist
- Substance abuse counselor aide
- Family support worker
- Social services coordinator

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Law enforcement, maintaining order, and protecting people's rights overlaps with psychology[3]. Some positions include:

- Police officer
- Probation officer
- Correctional treatment specialist
- Victim advocate
- Juvenile caseworker
- Community outreach coordinator

Youth Services & Education

Workers in these fields provide education, support, and advocacy for children, teens, and families. They may work in educational settings. Some positions include:

- Foster care worker
- Adoption worker
- Teen parent case manager
- Youth program coordinator
- Educational support specialist
- Special education aide
- Admissions counselor
- College recruiter

Human Resources (HR)

HR is the department in an organization that creates and maintains a productive work environment, from hiring to firing. Psychology is a common background for HR professionals. Some positions include:

- HR assistant
- HR coordinator
- Recruiter
- Talent acquisition specialist
- Employee relations coordinator
- Training and development specialist

Business & Corporate Roles

Focus on people, effective communication, and rational analysis make psychology majors versatile employees in the business world. These tend to be some of the higher-paying careers for those with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Some positions include:

- Sales representative
- Sales manager
- Customer success manager
- Account manager
- Marketing coordinator
- Market research analyst
- Project coordinator
- Operations coordinator
- Public relations specialist
- Workforce insights analyst

Healthcare Settings

Hospitals and clinics hire psychology bachelor's graduates for non-licensed roles, including:

- Patient advocate
- Behavioral health specialist
- Care coordinator
- Medical office manager
- Research assistant
- Rehab specialist
- Rehabilitation assistant
- Patient services representative

Government & Nonprofit Work

Public agencies also hire psychology graduates, including positions such as:

- Community outreach coordinator
- Community service manager
- Public health program assistant
- Vocational rehab assistant
- Veteran services coordinator
- Nonprofit program manager

Psychology-Related Careers Which Require an Advanced Degree

Many psychology college graduates go directly into graduate school (master's or doctoral programs) after they earn the bachelor's degree. Others spend significant time in the workforce and then apply for graduate school. It's never too late to pursue further education! A master's or doctoral degree is necessary for careers such as:

- Clinical psychologist
- Counseling psychologist
- School psychologist
- Licensed professional counselor
- Social worker
- Industrial-organizational psychologist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Lawyer/attorney

Sources

1. National Center for Education Statistics
2. Psychology Today · Career Prospects for Psychology Majors
3. Psi Chi · Applying Your Psych Major Toward a Career in Criminal Justice