

Department of Psychology Career Advising Guide

GENERAL OCCUPATIONAL FIELD	SAMPLE JOB TITLES	RECOMMENDED/REQUIRED PREPARATION & TYPICAL WORK SETTINGS
Counseling	Paraprofessional counselor, counselor, director of counseling services	For paraprofessional jobs, bachelor's degree and experience (internship, volunteer work, part-time jobs). Human Development concentration recommended. For other levels, master's degree and/or doctorate usually required, plus prior experience. <u>Places of employment:</u> mental health centers, colleges, private counseling centers. Licensure by state required for private practice (L.P.C.).
Clinical psychology	Psychologist	Typically require doctorate (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) These jobs involve treatment of clients with more serious disturbances. Licensure by state required for private practice (L.C.P.). <u>Places of employment:</u> residential mental health facilities, private practice, colleges, mental health centers. B.S. degree recommended.
Community psychology (Social Services)	Crisis counselor, substance abuse counselor, church youth director, vocational rehabilitation counselor	Some openings for persons with bachelor's degrees in first three fields; vocational rehabilitation typically requires a master's degree. For all jobs, prior experience working with people is important. Human Development concentration recommended.
Experimental psychology, research	Research assistant, research director, experimental psychologist	Graduate training typically required; better jobs require doctorate. Openings are mostly with university research centers or with special facilities. Helpful to have exceptional undergraduate grades and work on research projects. B.S. degree recommended.
School psychology	School psychologist	Requires at least a master's degree. Human Development concentration recommended.
Psychology applied in business settings (industrial and organizational psychology)	Industrial psychologist, human resources manager	For industrial psychology, typically must have at least a master's degree and strong background in testing. Useful to have had business courses and some type of work experience in a business setting. For human resources jobs, master's degree is helpful plus experience dealing with people, supervising, and/or hiring and firing.
Education	College professor	For college jobs: typically must have doctorate degree and important to have strong academic record, evidence of ability to conduct research and to teach. B.S. degree recommended.
Education	Elementary teacher, secondary teacher	Teacher certification required. Courses in developmental psychology, cognition, and learning recommended.
Education	Special education teacher	Certification to teach and a master's degree in special education required. Areas should include mentally handicapped, learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, and physically handicapped. Courses in developmental, cognition, and learning are recommended.

Department of Psychology Career Advising Guide

Guidance Counseling	Elementary or Secondary guidance counselor	A master's degree and teaching experience required. Courses in developmental, abnormal and measurement are helpful. Human Development concentration recommended.
Health Psychology	Psychologist	Requires doctorate. Jobs involve working with patients on health-related issues, e.g. pain management, treatment compliance, stress reduction. Places of employment: hospitals, rehabilitation centers.
Criminal Justice	Probation counselor for adult or juvenile offenders; parole officer	Courses in criminal justice, or a double major with criminal justice, are recommended.
Social work	Case worker, clinical social worker	Master's of Social Work required (psychology major is accepted as preparation for graduate work). For private counseling licensure by the state is required (L.C.S.W./L.P.C.) Courses in social work, an internship, and the Human Development concentration would be useful for graduate school application. Places of employment: court system, child protective services, rehabilitation services, and hospitals.
Speech pathology	Speech pathologist	Advanced degree required. Courses in developmental psychology are helpful. Places of employment: speech and hearing clinic helping children and adults who have speech problems, a hospital helping stroke victims recover speech, or in schools in special services.
Law	Attorney	Law degree required. Psychology is good preparation, along with courses in political science and writing. May combine with doctoral program in forensic psychology.
Physical therapy	Physical therapist	Advanced degree required. Internship useful as preparation for graduate school application. Places of employment: clinic or hospital.

Additional Sources of Information:

Psychology Department Website for Graduate Schools & Careers: https://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/psychology/graduate_school_and_careers

Psychology Department Website for Research & Internships: https://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/psychology/research_and_internships

Psychology Department has a library of career materials available in the Student Study Center (Life Sciences, 510).

Dr. Chris Buchholz, Department Chair
509-H Life Science Building
375-4904