Careers and Fields within Psychology

A psychology undergraduate degree is the beginning for those who wish to become psychologists or counselors. Many states require at least a master's degree for provisional licensure; most require a terminal degree (PhD, PsyD, or EdD). Make sure to check your state's requirements.

This does not mean that individuals with an undergraduate psychology degree cannot find a job; it just becomes a bit more challenging, and requires you to interpret the skills you have learned and explain how they relate to specific job qualifications. The Program Outcomes listed below provide you with an indication of what you should be able to do once you successfully complete the degree program.

UMUC PSYC Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the psychology degree program, you should be able to

- 1. apply major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology to prepare for graduate studies or careers in which psychological training is relevant
- apply basic knowledge of research methodology, statistics, measurement, guidelines, ethical standards, laws, and regulations to design, participate in, and evaluate research in a variety of contexts
- apply knowledge of human behavior to inform personal growth, communicate effectively, solve problems, make decisions, and interact with individuals, communities, and organizations
- 4. use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and where possible appropriate technology, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to current and emerging trends within the domains of psychology

Additional Resources

Here are other resources that may help you as you consider your future:

- Zeigler, D. E. & Orchowski, L. M. (2010). <u>Psychology major! What are you going to do with that?</u>
 <u>Strategies for maximizing your degree</u>. *Eye on Psi Chi, 14*(3), 26-29. This wonderful article is one of many that the International Honor Society in Psychology has published to help in planning the "next" step.
- About.com provides several useful articles that can help you to identify the skills you have
 learned and how to present yourself to potential employers. The first, "What Can You Do With a
 Bachelor's Degree in Psychology?", provides a list of careers that you may consider, and the
 second, "Career Options With a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology," describes those skills that you
 can translate into possible job opportunities.

Another great source of information is your psychology professor. He or she can help you think about what you want to do and advise you on potential ways to achieve your goals.