Career-Related Services

Career Counseling
Graduate School Planning
Career Resource Library
Career Assessments
Internship Planning
Credentials Services

Hours

Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm
Psychology
Career Options for Psychology Majors

This booklet contains specific information about majoring in psychology at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as career opportunities related to this major. The careers listed typically require a bachelor’s degree, and special certification or training requirements are noted. Please use this booklet as an idea generator, rather than as a comprehensive list of all career options for accounting majors. The career descriptions were obtained from the Center for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling (CSA&CC) library resources and career websites (see listing of sources on last page).

The first section, “Direct Career Opportunities,” includes careers that use the problem-solving and quantitative skills acquired by accounting majors. The second section, “More Career Opportunities,” lists careers that are potentially available to all business majors who have related experience or coursework.

For psychology majors, there are many career options that require a master’s or doctoral degree but do not require any particular undergraduate degree. Examples of these include law, international affairs, museum administration, library and information studies, hospital administration, and many more. For careers requiring graduate education, please visit our library or speak to a career counselor.

The CSA&CC offers many other services and resources to help you with your career planning. These include:

• Career Counseling
• Career Assessment
• Career Information Library
• Internship Information
• Graduate School Planning Assistance

Visit our website at utexas.edu/ugs/csacc or call 232-8400 for more information.
MAJORING IN PSYCHOLOGY AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Departmental Website: www.psy.utexas.edu
Campus Location: SEA 4.212
Phone Number: 471-1157

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR
The bachelor’s degree in psychology entails the study of the human mind and behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Psychologists in applied fields, usually requiring post-baccalaureate study, provide mental health care in hospitals, clinics, schools and private settings.

AREAS OF STUDY
Behavioral Neuroscience
Clinical Psychology
Cognition & Perception
Developmental Psychology
Individual Differences & Evolutionary Psychology
Social & Personality
Sensory Neuroscience

EXAMPLES OF COURSES
PSY 308 Biopsychology
Introduction to the biological bases of psychological processes and behavior. Our emotional experiences, personal identity, motor skills, sexuality, complex thoughts and other behaviors are all a product of our brain and the nervous system. Biopsychology is the study of the biological basis of behavior. This course covers basic concepts, findings and research.
PSY 333D Intro to Developmental Psychology
This course is meant to provide advanced introduction to the study of developmental psychology from conception through elder years. Students will study the methods used within developmental research, as well as the physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social development of humans. Many lectures will focus on the application of developmental research to public policy.

PSY 352 Abnormal Psychology
This course covers the major theoretical perspectives on defining and managing mental health and abnormal behavior; biological, social, and broader systems considerations in the development and treatment of mental illness; preventive models of mental health and adaptive functioning; current and historical ethical standards and controversies in abnormal psychology.

PSY 458 Experimental Psychology
This course provides advanced psychology students with an opportunity to carry out an empirical research project of their own devising, either individually or working with a small group of like-minded colleagues. The target audience is students who would like to explore psychology as an applied practice (rather than as a factual knowledge base) through hands-on exploration and interaction with others students and the instructors. There will be some direct instruction to help you improve your knowledge of statistics and research methods, but the majority of the work will be individualized and self-directed (though supervised).

Skills Gained by Psychology Majors:
Advising
Communicating
Conducting Research
Counseling
Critical Thinking
Evaluating
Direct Job Opportunities

This sampling includes careers that use the communication and critical thinking typically acquired by psychology majors.

Child Life Specialist
Alleviate the stress of hospitalization for children and their families through play therapy and other kinds of counseling. Act as advocate and information source for children and collaborate with medical team.

College Academic Advisor
Advise students at all levels about selection of courses, schedule planning, and other academic issues. May present seminars and workshops and develop and implement academic programs and refer students to other campus resources.

Corporate Foundation Worker
Help corporations support projects and social service agencies in the community by screening proposals, giving presentations, and advising company boards which projects to fund.

Corporate Recruiter
Maintain contacts in the community and travel, often to college campuses, to seek qualified job applicants. Screen and interview applicants and makes job offers. Stay up-to-date on organizational hiring policies, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action guidelines. Work for companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Forensic Psychology Assistant
Research and provide analysis to help a court or legal agency in arriving at a just or correct decision in civil matters. These may include, but are not limited to, lawsuits or insurance claims, which involve emotional suffering, and determination of competency of an aged or ill person.
Human Resources Specialist
Create and carry out human resource programs and policies including staffing, compensation, benefits, immigration, employee relations, training and health and safety programs. Assess employees for promotion.

Life Coach
Use creative, encouraging approach to help people with relationship, career, family, health, and financial issues. Help clients improve their lives and maximize their potential by supporting clients’ own solutions and strategies.

Market Research Analyst
Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service. May gather information on competitors, prices, sales, and methods of marketing and distribution. May use survey results to create a marketing campaign based on regional preferences and buying habits.

Parole Officer
Supervise adult and juvenile offenders who have been released from prison to ensure that they meet all the requirements of their parole. Develop plans for offenders before they are released and arrange for services such as employment, housing, medical care, and counseling. Conduct follow-up evaluations of parolee’s progress.

Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
Market a pharmaceutical company’s products to physicians, hospitals, and pharmacists. Conduct sales meetings, give presentations, and maintain current knowledge about employer’s products. Science coursework, including psychology courses that emphasize science, and sales experience are helpful.

Residential Counselor
Assist residential manager in establishing and operating a residential treatment program. Create therapeutic atmosphere, assist with daily living skills and development, assist residents in transition to independent living. Work for retirement communities, mental health facilities, substance abuse treatment
programs, youth shelters, and residential school programs.

**Victim Advocate**
Educate crime victims and witnesses about rights and services available to them, provide information about criminal justice proceedings, lend emotional support and referrals to community resources, and act as liaison with criminal prosecutor. Work for District Attorney’s offices.

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Recruit, train, schedule and provide supervision to volunteers at non-profit organizations. Arrange for on-the-job and other required training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers. Serve as liaison between administration, staff, and volunteers.

**More Job Opportunities**

This section lists other opportunities that may be available to all liberal arts majors. Entry into these careers usually requires internship or volunteer experience or relevant coursework in addition to a psychology degree. This is a sampling of job opportunities; for more options and ideas, please visit the CSA&CC career information library.

**ADVERTISING/MARKETING/SALES**

**Advertising and Promotions Manager**
Plan and direct advertising policies and programs or produce collateral materials, such as posters, contests, coupons, or giveaways, to create extra interest in the purchase of a product or service for a department, an entire organization, or on an account basis.

**Buyer**
Purchase merchandise directly from manufacturers and resell it to retailers (wholesale buyer) or purchase goods from wholesalers for resale (retail buyer). Become expert in particular kind of merchandise (such as clothing or electronics), stay informed about new trends, analyze customers’ buying preferences, and decide
what merchandise employer will sell.

**Customer Service Representative**
Interact with customers to provide information in response to inquiries about products and services and to handle and resolve complaints.

**Real Estate Agent**
Operate real estate office, or work for commercial real estate firm, overseeing real estate transactions. Other duties usually include selling real estate or renting properties and arranging loans. Requires a state license.

**Sales/Service Manager**
Direct the actual distribution or movement of a product or service to the customer. Coordinate sales distribution by establishing sales territories, quotas, and goals and establish training programs for sales representatives. Analyze sales statistics gathered by staff to determine sales potential and inventory requirements and monitor the preferences of customers.

**BUSINESS**

**Internal/Financial Auditor**
Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures.

**Insurance Agent**
Assist companies and individuals in selecting the most appropriate insurance policies. Consult with clients, write reports, maintain records, and help process insurance claims. A professional license is required, and business courses can be helpful.

**Loan Officer**
Provide guidance and information for prospective loan applicants. Analyze and verify clients’ creditworthiness. May negotiate repayment plans with delinquent borrowers. Work for commercial banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions.
Management Consultant Analyst
Analyze business problems by collecting information from both internal and external sources, developing possible solutions, and then making recommendations to management team. Usually work for consulting firms, who hire recent college graduates for 2-3 year analyst positions.

Retail Manager
Oversee profitable operation of retail stores, including hiring and supervising employees, managing inventory, and managing the budget. May be responsible for merchandise promotions and advertising.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Corporate Recruiter
Maintain contacts in the community and travel, often to college campuses, to seek qualified job applicants. Screen and interview applicants and makes job offers. Stay up-to-date on organizational hiring policies, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action guidelines. Work for companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Human Resources Specialist
Create and carry out human resource programs and policies including staffing, compensation, benefits, immigration, employee relations, training and health and safety programs. Assess employees for promotion.

Meeting & Convention Planner
Coordinate all aspects of group meetings and conventions, including speakers, location, audio-visual equipment, and publicity. Work for nonprofit organizations, professional associations, hotels, corporations, and government agencies.

Public Relations Specialist
Write articles for internal publications, write press releases, assemble press kits, arrange speaking engagements, assist in fundraising activities. Work in a variety of settings: business, government, non-profit, and education.
Technical Writer
Write technical materials, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work.

EDUCATION

College Admissions Officer
Evaluate freshman and transfer applicants; counsel and advise the general public including, but not limited to, prospective applicants, parents, faculty, and administration on admission-related issues; and participate in various recruitment and yield activities.

Corporate Trainer
Develop and conduct individual, group, and classroom training for employees on a wide variety of subjects. Develop training manuals, handouts, procedures, and supplemental training materials. Other duties involve test creation and administration for the advancement of employees.

Disability Services Coordinator
Serve as an advocate for students with disabilities. Work with faculty to understand and provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Promote disability awareness on college campuses.

Elementary School Teacher
Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills. Public schools require teacher certification, but private schools do not.

Residence Life Coordinator
Supervise undergraduate and/or graduate staff, develop residence hall community, respond to student concerns, manage administration and facilities, and participate in department initiatives and campus life.
ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR

Environmental Education Specialist
Plan, develop, and conduct programs to inform public of historical, natural, and scientific features of national, state, or local parks.

Environmental Science and Protection Technician
Perform laboratory and field tests to monitor the environment and investigate sources of pollution, including those that affect health. May collect samples of gases, soil, water, and other materials for testing and take corrective actions as assigned.

Green Marketing Analyst
Create innovative ways to introduce environmentally conscious products into the marketplace. Analyze sales data and consumer spending habits and consult with other marketing team members and graphic designers.

Recycling Coordinator
Design and implement curbside and drop-off recycling and hazardous waste programs through city governments or private firms. Conduct public outreach campaigns to educate people about the advantages of recycling. May ensure compliance with ordinances or apply for grants.

Tour Guide
Escort individuals or groups on sightseeing tours or through places of interest, such as national parks, industrial establishments, public buildings, and art galleries.

GOVERNMENT

Legal Assistant
Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.
Legislative Analyst
Perform quantitative and qualitative analysis of information needed by legislators and other government officials. Evaluate policy issues and options, write reports, conduct briefing meetings, and respond to inquiries.

Legislative Assistant
Meet with lobbyists, arrange committee and subcommittee hearings, assist in developing legislation and amendments. Respond to requests for information, prepare memos and reports based on completed research for legislators.

Lobbying Organizer
Distribute information about a particular issue or organization, recruit volunteers, solicit funds, and organize such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registrations drives. Work for special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

Political Party Staffer
Work to advance a political party’s agenda by recruiting and training candidates, preparing for conventions, planning fundraisers and publicity events, and supporting elected officials. Internship experience is especially helpful.

HUMAN SERVICES

Americorps Volunteer
Serve full-time for a year in organizations and agencies throughout the country, work to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. Benefits include an Education Award or an end-of-service stipend.

Community Organizer
Establish and organize community groups to solve social problems in the community. Assess strengths and weaknesses of existing resources and propose changes. Promote cooperation and coordination among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other community groups. Conduct research,
prepare budgets, and assist in fundraising.

**Social Service Caseworker**
Help families and individuals secure assistance from social service agencies. Interview clients to understand degree and nature of problems and refer to appropriate community resources. May determine eligibility for financial assistance and/or advocate on clients’ behalf to government or nonprofit agencies.

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Recruit, train, schedule and provide supervision to volunteers at non-profit organizations. Arrange for on-the-job and other required training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers. Serve as liaison between administration, staff, and volunteers.

**Youth Organizer**
Manage and administer youth and community projects and resources; conduct needs assessment and plan and deliver relevant programs of personal and social education via discussions, arts-based activities, community/environmental projects, residential activities, and outdoor/sports activities.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**ESL/ESOL Teacher**
Provide rigorous and appropriate instruction to international students that supports the acceleration of English and appropriate academic content. Serve as a liaison between the student, his/her family and the school, by providing cross-cultural information to all parties that foster positive relationships.

**Foreign Service Officer**
Analyze and report on political and economic developments, including agricultural trends, humanitarian and social conditions. Identify export markets, negotiate international agreements, and interpret US policies and interests for foreign governments, opinion leaders and publics. Issue visas to foreign nationals, provide development assistance, and arrange cultural exchanges

**Intelligence Officer**
A member of the armed forces, police officer or civilian
intelligence agency who specializes in the gathering, fusion and analysis of information and intelligence in order to provide advice to their government or another organization.

**Interpreter/Translator**
Enable the cross-cultural communication necessary in today’s society by converting one language into another. Must remain sensitive to the cultures associated with their languages of expertise.

**Peace Corps Volunteer**
Peace Corps Volunteers work internationally in the following areas: education, youth outreach, and community development; health and HIV/AIDS; agriculture and environment; business development; and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each Volunteer can vary widely.

**MEDIA/PUBLISHING**

**Copy Editor**
Act as liaison between author, editor, and proofreader. Review manuscripts for grammar and style usage. May develop in-house style guide, supervise freelance staff, and handle author queries.

**Copywriter**
Write articles, bulletins, sales letters, speeches, and other related informative, marketing and promotional material for use by publication or broadcast media to promote sale of goods and services.

**Grant Writer**
Write and develop grant proposals, which includes conducting needs assessments and matching product needs with available funding. Work for government or non-profit agencies.

**Staff Writer**
Research and write articles for magazine. May write article promos, short features, author bios, or photo captions. May work on freelance basis or for one particular magazine.
Travel Writer
Write features with detailed, accurate, timely and up-to-date information regarding destinations, hotels, restaurants, tours, activities, etc, using a variety of sources of information. Involves thorough research and travel.

RESEARCH

Information Broker
Perform research for clients in business, healthcare, government, law, and science. Uses Internet, database, and library resources to find specific information. May also analyze information, write reports, and train clients in information retrieval. Often work for consulting firms or on freelance basis.

Institutional Researcher
Write institutional and policy histories; research and report on current issues, long-range trends; edit records; manage archives. Work for government agencies, private corporations, public archives and libraries.

Market Research Analyst
Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service. May gather information on competitors, prices, sales, and methods of marketing and distribution. May use survey results to create a marketing campaign based on regional preferences and buying habits.

Publications Researcher
Research story and script ideas; maintain research files on topics and people; verify stories for accuracy. Work for newspaper, magazine, or book publishers.

Social Science Research Assistant
Assist social scientists in laboratory, survey, and other social research. May perform publication activities, laboratory analysis, quality control, or data management.
SOURCES


Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/oco

O*Net Occupational Information Network: online.onetcenter.org

UT Psychology Department: www.psy.utexas.edu