Psychology Careers and Trends in the Twenty-First Century

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Key Questions

• Do you wonder why we think, feel, and act the way we do?
• Do you want to help people?
• Do you want an exciting career?

You are ready for psychology and counseling if your answer YES to all of the above questions!
Alabama A & M University
Psychology and Counseling Program

- Clinical mental health counseling – master’s
- Counseling psychology – master’s
- Guidance and counseling / school counseling – master’s and education specialist degrees and certification
- School psychometry – post-master’s certification only
- School psychology – education specialist and certification
- Rehabilitation counseling – master’s
How to Plan

For planning a career in psychology and counseling, remember these tips:

• The sky is the limit about the range of roles in our field.
• Talk to experts in the field about their experience.
• There are careers that will always be with us, as well as new areas of growth.
• Be flexible and always willing to learn! You might switch areas within the field of psychology and counseling at least once.
Roles and Careers

- Child psychologists
- Family psychologists
- Clinical mental health psychologists
- School counselors & psychologists
- Psychoanalysts
- Rehabilitation counselors
- General counselors
- Substance abuse counselors
- Addiction counselors
- Rape counselors
- Suicide counselors

- Psychodrama specialists
- Art therapists
- Music therapists
- Researchers in . . .
  - Bullying and cyberbullying
  - Psychology of social networking
  - Youth suicide
  - Homeless youth and adults
  - PTSD
  - Many other areas relevant to the 21st century!
Health psychologists are focused on helping people living healthier lives. They study how psychological, biological and social factors influence health. Two important areas of health psychology include helping people avoid illness and promoting healthy behaviors. Educating people about the causes of illness and teaching healthier habits are among the things health psychologists can do.
Do you love creating psychology experiments? Experimental psychologists use scientific methods and design research studies that explore many different topics within psychology. Social behavior, cognitive processes, personality and human development are just a few of the topics that experimental psychologists might investigate.
Have you ever wanted to help solve crimes like the psychologists portrayed in television serial dramas? While the field of criminal psychology is not always exactly like the popular depictions in TV and movies, this field still offers plenty of excitement. Criminal psychologists perform a variety of duties such as developing psychological profiles of criminal suspects, assessing convicted criminals, to determine their risk of re-offending and helping law enforcement catch online predators.
Geropsychologist

*Photo by Simone van den Berg - iStockPhoto*

As the population of older adults continues to grow, the demand for professionals to attend to their mental health needs also increases. According to the APA, adults over the age of 65 made up 12 percent of the population in 2004. By the year 2050, 21 percent of the population will be age 65 or older.
Traffic psychology is an emerging field that involves applying psychological principles to understanding driver behavior. Some areas in this field include:

- Studying the relationship between driver behavior and traffic accidents
- Designing vehicles that are safer and more ergonomic
- Searching for ways to improve traffic safety and prevent auto accidents
- Researching how people use transportation
In a struggling economy where retailers and businesses are concerned with attracting new customers, the need for psychologists to research consumer behavior and to develop effective marketing campaigns has grown. Consumer psychologists not only study how and why people purchase goods and services, they also analyze how family, friends, culture and media messages affect buying behavior.
Military Psychologist / Veterans’ Counselor

Photo by H Assaf

The field of military psychology encompasses a wide array of job duties including assessment, treatment and research. Mental health care and counseling make up an important part of this field, but some military psychologists also research different aspects of military life and combat – and of military family adjustment and military educational systems.
Counseling with Different Races, Cultures, and Ages
The field is growing and changing!

• Questions?

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