



# PSYCHOLOGIST

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Psychologists apply scientific methods to analyze and explain human behavior. They use this understanding to help people overcome mental health problems, or to shape the way we organize many areas of society—for example, the way we are taught, and how people are treated and rehabilitated in hospitals and prisons. Specialty branches of psychology require special training.



### SALARY

Bachelor's graduate ★★☆☆☆

Doctoral graduate ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Large sector • Growing demand for psychologists as new areas of expertise develop • Most jobs in educational services, health care, and social service

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Psychology • English • Biology • Mathematics (especially statistics) • Helping and caring for people



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** Graduate-level qualifications are required; you will usually need to be licensed in order to practice.



**LIFESTYLE** Depending on their specialty, psychologists usually work normal office hours. If employed in a hospital, they may work shifts.



**LOCATION** Psychologists usually see clients in an office or clinic, but they may also be expected to make visits to homes or institutions.



**THE REALITIES** The job can be emotionally stressful. In some branches of the profession, a psychologist can be on call for long periods of time.

## CAREER PATHS

You will need a minimum of a bachelor's degree to enter the profession. With relevant work experience, you can then study for a higher degree that will enable you to specialize in an area, from clinical to organizational psychology.

### BACHELOR'S GRADUATE

With a degree in psychology, you can work in many educational, rehabilitation, or health care settings, or as a research assistant.



**GRADUATE** To qualify as a psychologist, you generally need a doctoral degree in psychology and a license to practice. Master's degrees holders can be licensed in many of the same fields, but they are not called psychologists.



## SKILLS GUIDE



Excellent verbal and written communication, and the ability to listen carefully to clients.



The ability to work with other health care professionals to ensure the welfare of patients.



An interest in science and a strong commitment to keep learning new skills.



An ability to relate to people and remain calm with clients who may be distressed.



Good problem-solving and decision-making skills, and the discipline to follow set guidelines.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **COUNSELOR** *see pp. 256–257*
- ▶ **SOCIAL WORKER** *see pp. 258–259*
- ▶ **SPEECH PATHOLOGIST** *see pp. 290–291*
- ▶ **CAREER ADVISOR** Works with adults or children to help them make choices about their future careers. Advisors provide information and guidance about learning and work opportunities that are available.

The study of the human mind and behavior dates back to Ancient Greece.



**SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST** Liaises with families and schools to address behavioral and learning difficulties in children and young people.



**ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST** Analyzes the working environment of an organization and suggests ways to improve staff welfare and productivity in the workplace.



**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST** Works with prison and probation services to develop effective programs that aim to prevent people from reoffending.



**COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGIST** Helps people to manage difficult life events and circumstances, such as dealing with grief, anxiety, or depression.



**PSYCHOLOGIST** Once qualified, you will need to complete a graduate-level degree in a chosen area, which can lead to a range of different jobs.



**CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST** Deals with the assessment and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in clients.



**SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST** Helps athletes and sports teams overcome psychological barriers to their performance and training on the field of play.