

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Psychology?

Psychology programs¹ teach students the scientific study of social, cognitive and behavioral processes of humans and other animals. You will learn about the science of mind and behavior, human individual and group behavior, the physiological and environmental basis of behavior, as well as the analysis and treatment of behavior problems and disorders. Areas of emphasis in Psychology include clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, industrial-organizational psychology, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, experimental or research psychology, and numerous other subareas.

Psychology programs teach students to plan, design, conduct, and analyze results of experiments to study problems in psychology. Examples of areas of research include motivation, cognition, thinking, attention, learning and retention, sensory and perceptual processes, effects of substance use and abuse, and genetic and neurological factors affecting behavior. **Applied Psychology** programs teach students to work within the applied setting, such as in business, industry, government, or nonprofit organizations, provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology.⁴ **Psychological Science** programs emphasize the scientific approach, such as experimental psychology.

Programs at Montana State University² introduce students to core areas of the discipline including abnormal, cognitive, developmental, industrial/organizational, learning, cognitive, physiological, and social psychology. It emphasizes scientific theory, research methodology, terminology, and empirical findings in psychology's major areas of study. Students learn about the various research methods used to study psychological phenomena through coursework and personal contact with faculty. This degree prepares students for employment in applied settings or for graduate study in psychology and related fields. Students who choose not to continue toward a graduate degree may find employment in a wide variety of organizations and agencies as well as in research settings where knowledge of behavior and cognition is useful. A bachelor's degree in psychology qualifies a person to assist psychologists and other professionals in community mental health centers, vocational rehabilitation offices, and correctional programs. Bachelor's degree holders may also work as research or administrative assistants for psychologists. Some work as technicians in related fields, such as marketing research. Many find employment in other areas, such as sales, service, or business management. A Master's or a Doctoral degree is required for advanced work within Psychology.⁴

Characteristics associated with success¹ in this major include interest and skills in working with people, research, communication, and critical observation.

You should have¹:

- patience and perseverance
- an ability to analyze and understand empirical data (evidence)
- good verbal and writing skills in order to communicate research findings
- an ability to relate theory and ideas into work with the field

Occupations in this field require ability to¹: apply knowledge of human behavior into complex situations and scenarios, do detailed work, work independently or as part of a team.

Related occupations include¹:

- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist, Clinical
- Residential Counselor
- Job Analyst
- Adult Case Manager
- Parole Officer
- Psychiatric Technician
- Psychologist, Experimental
- Career Counselor
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- School/College Counselor
- Social Services Director
- College Student Personnel
- Human Resources Recruiter
- Employment Interviewer
- Gerontologist
- Career Technician
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Mental Health Counselor
- Human Services

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Psychology?

MSU graduates (Bachelor's degree) were hired in the following selected fields³:

Account Manager - Hostway
Administrative Associate - Montana State University;
L.P. Denney Inc.
Adult Case Manager - Gallatin Mental Health Center
Agricultural Statistician - US Department of Agriculture
AmeriCorps Member - AmeriCorps Volunteer Services
Assistant Executive Director - Girl Scouts
Bank Teller - First Security Bank
Campus Pastor - Assembly of God Church
Child Protective Services - State of Texas
Children's Case Manager - Golden Triangle Community
Mental Health Center
Community Corrections Personnel - Community Corrections
Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation Specialist - Western
Montana Mental Health Center
Contract Labor - Elk Grove
Drug & Alcohol Counselor - Wilderness Treatment Center
Family Advocate - Children's Home Society
Family Support Assistant - Youth Dynamics Inc.
Human Resources Associate - A Self Start;
Faurecia Interior Systems

Intern - US Senate Finance Committee
Lead Teacher - Bainbridge Island Child Care Centers
Marketing Director - Bridger Bowl
Membership Services Associate - Spanish Peaks
Patient Care Coordinator /Public Relations - Mountain Physical
Therapy
Process Server - Williams Investigations
Program Coordinator - Montana State University
Program Specialist - Fairfax Hospital
Psychotherapist - Teton Valley Counseling Center
Research Assistant - Radical Research
Resort Manager - Turneffe Flats
Small Business Owner
Social Services Specialist - Gallatin County
Social Worker - Family and Child Services
Technician Assistant - Highland Animal Clinic
Therapeutic Aide - AWARE, Inc.
Usability Engineer - Microsoft Corp.
Warrant Officer, Helicopter Flight School - United States Air Force

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)³

2007: MT: \$25,600 (8)	Out of State: \$36,280 (4)
2006: MT: \$26,040 (5)	Out of State: \$26,900 (2)
2005: MT: \$21,366 (4)	Out of State: \$30,813 (3)
2004: MT: \$17,688 (5)	Out of State: \$14,215 (2)

Licensure and Certification: Psychologists in independent practice or those who offer any type of patient care—including clinical, counseling, and school psychologists—must meet certification or licensing requirements in all States and the District of Columbia. Licensing laws vary by State and by type of position and require licensed or certified psychologists to limit their practice to areas in which they have developed professional competence through training and experience.⁴

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

University of Arizona University of Memphis Georgia Tech University University of Washington University of Alberta

Other Sources of Information:

American Psychological Association: www.apa.org
Society for Personality & Social Psychology: www.spsp.org
American Psychology-Law Society: www.ap-ls.org
Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm
Association for Psychological Science: www.psychologicalscience.org
Department of Psychology - Montana State University: www.montana.edu/wwwpy

For more information contact:



Montana State University
177 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers

¹University of Oregon. 2007. Created by intoCareers, a unit of the University of Oregon. Montana information Montana Career Information System. Discover: 2008 by ACT, Inc.

²Montana State University Department of Psychology

³Montana State University Career & Internship Services

⁴Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008-09 Edition

Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 59/35; 2005: 63/36; 2006: 49/28; 2007: 41/22