

Careers in Psychology

(Notes from Information Session held on February 11, 2009)

Written by Dr. Linda Lysynchuk

A) Working with a BA

- Basic requirement for a wide variety of jobs.
- Learn skill such as ability to set goal, carry out plan, manage resources, not give up, interpersonal skills, communication, planning and development, analysis skills
- People do get jobs in the mental health field with a bachelor's degree.
- Work in specialized programs, e.g., programs for chronic psychiatric patients, prison settings, drug addictions.
- May consider Children's Aid Society, Youth Detention Center, Group Home, Research Assistant, Day Care Center, Teaching Assistant in Elementary School.
- Often difficult work and does not pay very well.
- People often use such jobs to get experience and as stepping stones to other jobs.
- May consider taking courses in Business, Computer Science, Public Speaking, French.
- Develop skills outside of class through volunteer and work experience.
- Make personal contacts who can write reference letters and may offer jobs.

General Job Areas of Graduates with a BA Degree

Advertising	Bank management
Customer Services	Employee Relations
Hotel Management	Insurance Sales
Military Service	News Reporting
Technical Writing	Travel Services

B) College Programs for Psychology Majors

- | | |
|--|--|
| - addictions counseling | - human resources management |
| - applied counseling | - instructor for blind and visually impaired |
| - autism and behavioural science | - international business management |
| - career development practitioner | - marketing management |
| - child and youth worker | - nursing |
| - communicative disorders assistant | - police services - constable training |
| - corporate communications | - public relations |
| - developmental services worker | - research analyst |
| - early childhood education | - social services worker |
| - educational assistant | - teaching English as a second language |
| - fitness and healthy lifestyle practitioner | - workplace wellness and health promotion |

Finding out more information

- 1) Go to www.ontariocolleges.ca ..
- 2) Click on “find” then click on “advanced search” in the middle of the page.
- 3) Choose “post-diploma” under “program level”.
- 4) Choose “one year or less” under “duration”.
- 5) Click on “search”.

C) University Level (other than Psychology)

- art therapy
- business
- child studies
- communication sciences and disorders
- criminology
- education
- family relations
- gerontology
- industrial relations
- law, mediation
- management sciences
- marriage and family therapy
- medicine
- music therapy
- occupational therapy
- pastoral counseling, theology
- science
- social work
- library sciences

If you are interested in applying to these programs, check whether there are any specific prerequisites.

Certificate Programs in Conflict Management

- For those interested in mediation, conflict resolution.
- Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo.

Faculties of Education

- Search Ontario Universities and view admission requirements.
- For those wishing to explore other related options consider college level programs such as Early Childhood Education, Communication Disorders Assistant, Educational Assistant.
- Some of these programs give significant advanced standing to those holding a BA.

Human Resources Management

- Graduate programs such as Business Administration, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Industrial Relations, Management.
- College programs in Human Resources Management.

Marriage and Family Therapy

- Most programs are in the USA.
- Look up Directory of Marriage and Family Therapy training Programs in the American Association of Marriage and Family therapy web site.
- Look at graduate studies in Family Relations and Human Development and Couple and Family therapy at the University of Guelph.
- See graduate program in sexuality at the University of Montreal (studies will be in French).

Social Work

- Students who major in Psychology will be restricted to the number of Masters of Social Work (MSW) programs that they can apply to.
- Check out Wilfred Laurier University and the University of Toronto.
- Canadian Association for Schools of Social Work lists programs for Social Work (Bachelor's, Master's PhD) including application information and admission requirements.

D) Graduate Programs in Psychology

- Typically no more than 5-15% of those graduating with an Honour's degree in Psychology will pursue graduate studies in Psychology.
- Preparation for applying to graduate school should begin before fourth year.
- Students will study in one of the many sub-disciplines of Psychology such as experimental, physiological, developmental, social, forensic, educational, industrial-organizational.
- If you are interested in counseling students you might consider an MA or PhD in Clinical Psychology, MEd in Counseling Psychology, MSW in Clinical Social Work, PhD or EdD in School Psychology, MD. with a specialization in Psychiatry.

See notes on Information Session on Going to Graduate School for more information.