Careers in Psychology & Types of Graduate Programs
Careers in Psychology

Non-Research Careers

- Teacher
- Counseling
- Health/School/Community
- Sports
- Social Work
- Therapist
- Forensics, Law enforcement
- Law
- Medicine
- Business
  - Marketing
  - Human Resources

Research Careers

- Business
  - Private sector research
  - Consulting
- Researcher
  - Government (Military, CDC)
  - Non-profit
- Academia/Professor
- Clinical psychology/therapy
Questions you need to answer if you want to pursue graduate school
Which Areas of Study? 🤔

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Applied</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical</td>
<td>• Behavioral</td>
<td>• Forensic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Counseling</td>
<td>• Cognitive</td>
<td>• I/O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School</td>
<td>• Social</td>
<td>• Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Neuro-psychology</td>
<td>• Developmental</td>
<td>• Environmental</td>
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Which Types of Degree? 🤔

- Masters
  - MA
  - MS
  - MSW

- Doctoral
  - PhD
  - PsyD

- Related
  - MBA
  - EdD
  - MD
  - JD
What Jobs Are Available? 😐

- BA/BS
  - Social work
  - Clinical assistant
  - Basic research assistant
  - Public affairs/policy
  - Other/non-research

- Terminal MA/MS
  - PhD
  - Assessment/intake
  - Social work
  - Therapist/Counseling
  - Adjunct teacher

- PhD – research based
  - Academia
  - Full researcher
  - Professor
  - Clinical Psychologist
    - Private practice
    - Group care facilities

- PsyD – practice based
  - Clinical Psychologist
    - Private practice
    - Group care facilities
Doctoral Degrees

PhD and PsyD
The PhD

• **Purpose:** to create scholars with specialized knowledge interested in *producing* new knowledge through *scientific research*.

• **Work:**
  - 5-8 year commitment
  - 60-120 credits
  - 0-3 classes a semester
  - Masters These & Doctoral dissertation
  - Teaching – TA-ing and adjunct
  - Publishing – creating new knowledge
  - Clinical: Independent research and/or fieldwork/practicum/internship
The PsyD

- **Purpose:** to create scholars capable of *applying* scientific research to provided mental health services to individual or groups.
- This is a professional degree
- Initially created (1965) for those uninterested in conducting research themselves; get to the field fast and efficiently.

- **Work:**
  - 4-6 year commitment
  - 60-120 credits
  - Doctoral project
  - Fieldwork/practicum/internship
# Differences between PhD and PsyD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>PsyD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Emphasis on research</td>
<td>• Emphasis on practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Model</td>
<td>• Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research-Scientist</td>
<td>• Practitioner-Scholar</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Scientist-Practitioner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Funded</td>
<td>• Unfunded</td>
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</table>
Master’s Degree
The Master’s Degree

• **Purpose:** Master a field! Start creating/implementing knowledge.

• **Work:**
  • 2-3 year time commitment
  • 3-4 classes a semester
  • Work with an advisor to complete research

• **Two tracks for final year:**
  • Clinical/Fieldwork track:
    • 300-500 hours at training site
  • Research/Experimental track:
    • Complete independent research project for thesis.
Two Typical Goals for MA Students

- Use MA to get a job
- Use MA to transition to doctoral program
Should you get an MA or go straight into a PhD?

• Benefits of Doing an MA first
  • You can make yourself a better candidate for a PhD
    • Improve GPA
    • Show you can handle work
    • Letter of rec from people who know you
    • Conduct research → strengthen your CV
  • Less competitive admissions
  • Try out different areas/make sure grad school is for you

• Drawbacks to doing MA first
  • It will take longer to obtain your PhD
  • More expensive
  • Little to no funding
  • You will have to go through the application process twice
Should you get an MA or go straight into a PhD? 🤔

- **Benefits of going directly into a PhD program**
  - One application
  - May shorten time in grad school
  - Good if you know exactly what you want to do
  - Funding

- **Drawbacks of going directly into a PhD program**
  - Must be an excellent student
  - Programs are highly competitive
    - Top marks
    - High GRE
    - Research experience