

# Careers in Psychology & Types of Graduate Programs

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# 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? 🤔

## Clinical

- Clinical
- Counseling
- School
- Neuro-psychology

## Basic

- Behavioral
- Cognitive
- Social
- Developmental
- Comparative

## Applied

- Forensic
- I/O
- Health
- Environmental

# 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

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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 Thesis & 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

## PhD

- Emphasis on research
- Model
  - Research-Scientist
  - Scientist-Practitioner
- Funded

## PsyD

- Emphasis on practice
- Model
  - Practitioner-Scholar
- Unfunded

# Master's Degree

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# 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