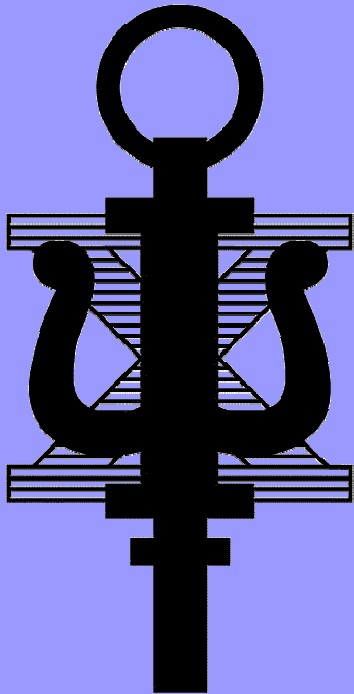


Careers for a Psychology Major



Christopher Koch
George Fox University

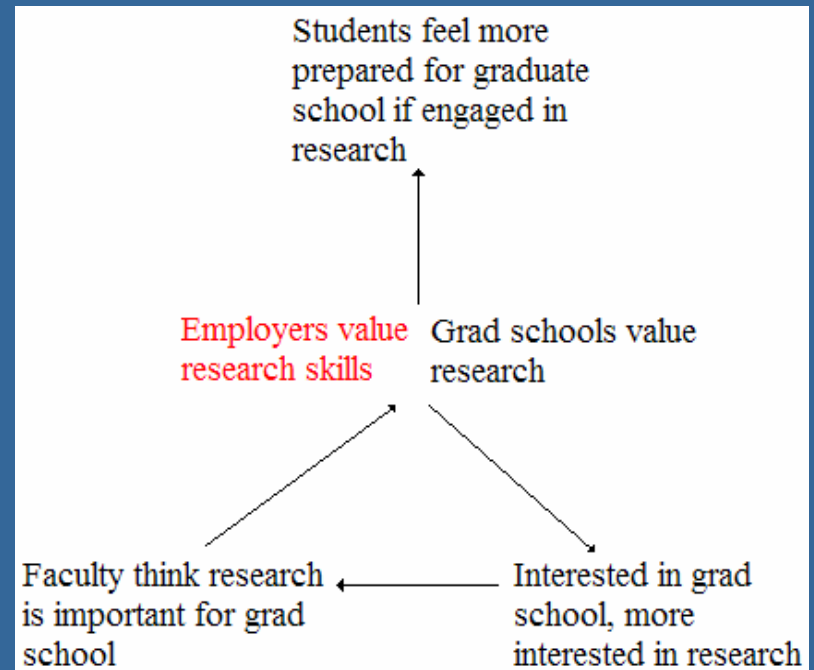
Skills Valued by Employers

- Social Skills
 - Deals effectively with a wide variety of people
 - Works productively as a member of a team
- Personal Skills
 - Holds high ethical standards
 - Remains open-minded during controversies
- Communication Skills
 - Listens carefully and accurately
 - Speaks articulately and persuasively

- Information Gathering and Processing Skills
 - Plans and carries out projects successfully
 - Gathers and organizes information from multiple sources
- Numerical/Computer/Psychometric Skills
 - Performs and interprets descriptive and inferential statistics

Research Experience

- Employers also value research skills (Appleby, 2000; Gibson, Kahn, & Mathie, 1996; Landrum, 2001; Landrum & Harrold, 2003)



Meetings Skills Through Research: Social Skills

- Deals effectively with a wide variety of people
 - Running a large number of subjects and having them following instructions or believe a particular research scenario
 - Presenting research to different people having different view points of view and addressing their concerns
- Works productively as a member of a team
 - work on research teams
 - advisor
 - peers

Meetings Skills Through Research: Personal Skills

- Holds high ethical standards
 - ethical treatment of participants
 - consent
 - debrief
- Remains open-minded during controversies
 - need to examine issues from alternative perspectives
 - being your own devil's advocate

Meetings Skills Through Research: Communication

- Listens carefully and accurately
 - comments from others
- Speaks articulately and persuasively
 - paper and poster presentations

Meetings Skills Through Research: Information Skills

- Plans and carries out projects successfully
 - conducting background (literature) research
 - designing a study and collecting data
 - analyzing the data
 - communicating the results

- Gathers and organizes information from multiple sources
 - database searches
 - journals
 - books
 - presentations

Meetings Skills Through Research: Numerical Skills

- Performs and interprets descriptive and inferential statistics
 - data analysis
 - writing a results section

Psychology as a Liberal Arts Major

- Communication
- Philosophy
- Writing courses
- Science requirements
- Statistics
- Research Methods
- Courses in social psychology, personality, and group dynamics

Negative Characteristics

- Poor work ethic
- Too dependent on “book” knowledge
- Believe they are overqualified for their jobs
- Appear to be looking to their next job rather than attempting to master their current one

Types of Jobs (Psychology)

- academic advisor
- alcohol/drug abuse counselor
- behavior analyst
- career counselor
- case management aide
- case worker
- child care worker
- child protection worker
- community outreach
- Parole officer
- political campaign officer
- public affairs coordinator
- public relations specialist
- publications researcher
- radio/TV research assistant

- day care center supervisor
- family services worker
- gerontology aide
- group home coordinator
- housing/student life coordinator
- rehabilitation counselor
- residential youth counselor
- secondary school teacher
- social services assistant
- social services director
- urban planning research assistant

Types of Jobs (Business)

- administrative assistant
- advertising agent
- airline reservations clerk
- bank management
- claims specialist
- customer service representative
- employee counselor
- insurance agent
- insurance claims/underwriter
- intelligence officer
- job analyst
- loan officer
- lobbying organizer
- marketing researcher
- media buyer

- employee relations assistant
- events coordinator
- financial researcher
- hotel management
- human relations director
- human resources recruiter
- occupational analyst
- office manager
- property management
- public information officer
- sales representative
- store manager
- technical writer

Types of Jobs (Others)

- activity director
- assistant youth coordinator
- camp staff director
- college admissions officer
- community organizer
- community recreation worker
- historical research assistant
- hospital patient service representative
- juvenile probation officer
- laboratory assistant
- law enforcement officer
- newspaper reporter

- community relations officer
- congressional aide
- crime prevention coordinator
- director of alumni relations
- director of fundraising
- driving instructor
- educational coordinator
- foster home parent
- film researcher/copywriter
- nursing home coordinator
- park and recreation director
- private tutor
- research assistant
- statistical reports compiler
- teaching
- volunteer coordinator
- youth ministry

Occupational Outlook

- Employment in health care will be fastest growing area
 - outpatient health care
 - substance abuse
- Schools
- Public and private social service agencies

- Companies will use psychologists in survey design, analysis, and research to provide marketing evaluation and statistical analysis
- Employee assistance programs

Occupations by Degree

- Doctoral degrees in applied areas should have the best opportunities
 - counseling
 - health
 - educational psychology
- Psychologists with extensive training in quantitative research methods and computer science may have a competitive edge



- Master's degrees

- school
- industrial-organizational psychology
- with business and industry experience can work in consulting and marketing research
- psychological assistants or counselors

Earnings

- Median salary in 2000 was \$48,596
- Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists median salary was \$48,320
- School psychologists were at \$66,880



- Industry employees

- hospitals -\$52,460
- elementary and secondary schools - \$51,310
- offices of other health practitioners - \$50,990
- offices and clinics of medical doctors - \$47,890
- individual and family services - \$35,720

- Federal government (mean = \$72,830)
 - bachelor's - \$21,900 (\$27,200)
 - master's - \$33,300
 - Ph.D. or Psy.D. - \$48,200

Optimizing Opportunities

- Get to know you faculty
- Take course work that supports you plans
- Get to know and use resources that can assist you
- Participate in at least one internship experience
- Volunteer some of your time and talents to campus or community organizations

- Build your communication skills
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Keep an open mind about your possibilities
- Be savvy about your job search

Career Searches on the Web

- www.occ.com
- www.jobweb.org/catapult
- www.headhunter.net
- www.usfca.edu/usf/career
- www.jobtrak.com
- www.careerbuilder.com
- www.usajobs.opm.gov
- www.nassembly.org