

PSYCHOLOGY

<http://psychology.gmu.edu>

Name and description of the field.

Psychology can best be described as the study of human behavior and mental processes. As such, psychology is concerned with those things that influence our behavior, for example, our physical make-up, social skills, personality and those of other people. The areas of influence translate into areas of study within psychology, for example, social, developmental, clinical, industrial, experimental, and physiological.

The Psychology program provides both the tools for further training and the orientation toward people and problem solving needed for further training whether on the job or in graduate school or both.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

Psychology is a science based on empirical results. Therefore, specific skills the psychology curriculum emphasizes are:

- quantitative, research, and inferential-thinking skills
- personal growth and knowledge of one's self and others
- application of psychological principles in real life

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

The B.A. and B.S. degrees in psychology are equally valid for career/graduate school opportunities. The B.S. program requires more math and science than the B.A. The B.A. program provides more breadth in the general education portion of the degree and requires a foreign language, but requires less math and science.

Is a Minor available? Yes. The minor requires 18 hours of course work distributed in several areas.

What are recent graduates doing?

Graduates of the GMU psychology program either go on to graduate school or into the workplace. Undergraduates in Psychology have received advanced degrees in a variety of fields including psychology, social work, business administration, law, and education from all the local universities in the D.C. area plus a number of excellent schools outside the area.

According to recent surveys, GMU undergraduates have found employment in a variety of settings including banks, computer and industrial research settings, hospitals and health departments, judicial settings, non-profit organizations, human resources departments, schools, and social/human service agencies. Recent graduates of the Bachelor's program have held positions such as:

Behavior Modification Therapist
Budget Analyst
Business Analyst
Child Advocate Supervisor
Claims investigator
Customer Service Representative
Developmental Aid
Documentation Assistant
Employee Services Officer
Entertainment Coordinator
Financial Counselor
Epidemiology Assistant

Human Factors Engineer
Human Resource Assistant
Human Services Worker
Information Specialist
Intake Coordinator
Medication Assistant
Mental Health Counselor
Outreach Worker
Personnel Actions Clerk
Personnel Systems Specialist
Physical Therapy Aid
Preschool Teacher

Probation Officer
Program Specialist
Public Relations Assistant
Purchasing Agent
Recruiting Coordinator
Research Assistant
Residential Counselor
Security Assistant
Senior technical recruiter
Substance Abuse Counselor
Teacher
Therapist

EXPLORING MAJORS

Organizations that have employed Mason grads include (sample):

Alternative House	Fairfax County Courts	Fairfax County Child Advocacy
American Psychological Assoc.	Community Systems Inc.	Fairfax County Public Schools
Herbal Life	INOVA Fairfax Hospital	Maximus, Inc.
National Breast Cancer College	National Consumer Benefits	Northern Virginia Hotline
Parenting Education Center	Pender Veterinary Clinic	START
Sunrise Retirement Homes	US Dept. of Housing	US State Dept.
Value Health Sciences	Washington Adventist Hospital	Evercare Hospice
Mitre Corp.	Triton Security, Inc.	National Counseling Group
Society for Human Resource Management	SAIC	Prince William County Government
Fairfax county alcohol & Drug Services	YMCA	Commerce Bank
Dept. of Juvenile Justice	Chesterbrook Academy	CDI (Neurological Monitoring)

Career Library Resources – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/psyc.pdf> to see additional resources about Psychology and your career options located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online

(links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites)

– Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/psyc.htm>

What kinds of practical experience are recommended to explore Psychology further?

Internships (both paid and unpaid) are available in social service agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses. The *Undergraduate Psychology Office*, [University Career Services](#), and the *Center for Service and Leadership* help students find available openings. Academic credit for internships may be available through the “Psychology in the Community” courses (PSYC 327 or 328).

Opportunities for Psychology majors to gain experience related to their academic studies and career goals are advertised through University Career Services, 348 SUB I.

- [PatriotJobWeb](#), an on-line listing of full-time, part-time, internship, and coop opportunities for George Mason University students can be accessed by registering with [University Career Services](#), room 348 SUB1.
- [Career Network Online](#) database of GMU alumni and friends allows students the unique opportunity to “shadow” or interview Mason alumni to gain information about an occupation or an organization.

Whom should students contact for further information?

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703-993-1384

Academic Advising Center
304, SUB I
703-993-2470

Ken Guerrant
University Career Services
348, SUB I
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