



## CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Major Possibilities: Psychology

### Quick Facts

- The psychology program is designed to provide the experiences necessary to prepare the student for graduate school in animal learning and behavior, biopsychology, child psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, counseling psychology, developmental psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, personality and social psychology, and social work.
- To work as a counselor or psychologist, you need an advanced degree.
- The basic research, writing and analytical skills, as well as the understanding of the psyche, gained by psychology majors make the major broadly applicable as a grounding course of study for many professions in business, social services, and education.
- Internships (including research and shadowing) help shape professional identities, develop 21<sup>st</sup> century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

### Psychology Major Synopsis

The Psychology program emphasizes that psychology is first a science and then a profession; it also provides students with a broad background in the field. The Psychology program is housed in the F.W. Olin Building, which has state-of-the-art facilities for conducting research with humans and animals. Students may choose to complete a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with a major in Psychology. Introduction to Statistics is required as a supporting course. Students develop skills in oral and written communication, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and quantitative reasoning. The Psychology and Education majors may be paired by counting Principles of Psychology and Developmental Psychology towards both majors.

### Sample Occupational Areas

Psychologists study the human mind and human behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Psychologists in health service fields provide mental health care in hospitals, clinics, schools, or private settings. Psychologists employed in applied settings such as business provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology. A doctoral degree usually is required for independent practice as a psychologist. PhDs or PsyDs normally require about five to seven years of study, culminating in a dissertation. People with master's degrees in psychology have a few job options, and a bachelor's degree allows graduates to assist psychologists.

- **Clinical Psychologists** constitute the largest majority of psychologists. They work most often in counseling centers, practices, hospitals, or clinics. Areas of specialization include health psychology, neuropsychology, and geropsychology.
- **Cognitive Psychologists** study the area of the brain that deals with memory, problem solving, and language. They also do research related to computer programming and artificial intelligence.
- **Counseling Psychologists** advise people on how to deal with problems of everyday living. They work in universities, hospitals, and private practices.
- **Developmental Psychologists** study the cognitive, social, and physical development that takes place throughout life. Specialties include childhood, infancy, adolescence, geriatrics, disabilities, etc.
- **Experimental or Research Psychologists** study behavioral processes with humans and animals. Some areas include motivation, learning & memory, and effects of substance abuse.
- **Industrial/Organizational Psychologists** apply psychological principles to the workplace and research methods to improve productivity and quality of work life.
- **School Psychologists** work with students in early childhood and elementary and secondary schools. They work in schools to resolve students' learning and behavioral problems.
- **Social Psychologists** examine people's interactions with others and with the social environment. They work in organizational consultation, marketing research, systems design, or other applied psychology fields.

## Sample Job Titles

### GOVERNMENT, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION

Animal Behaviorist  
Art Therapist  
Behavioral Therapist  
Career Advisor  
Caregiver  
Case Worker  
Child Psychiatrist  
Clinical Psychologist

Cognitive Psychologist  
Counselor  
Healthcare Provider  
Legal Aide  
Pharmacist  
Probation Officer  
Recreational Therapist  
Research Psychologist  
Sexual Services Outreach  
Social Worker

Teacher  
Urban Planner

Sales Manager  
Statistical Analyst

### INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Community Relations Specialist  
Financial Advisor  
Human Resources Manager  
Insurance Agent  
Labor Relations Manager  
Market Research Analyst

### ARTS, MEDIA, AND ENTERTAINMENT

Advertising Manager  
Copywriter  
Market Researcher/Analyst  
Media Buyer/Planner  
Television/Media Analyst

## Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Adult Protective Services (Austin, TX)  
AIDS Services of Dallas (Dallas, TX)  
Alcohol Concern (London, UK)  
The Arbor (Georgetown, TX)  
Austin-Travis County EMS (Austin, TX)  
Austin Child Guidance Center (Austin, TX)  
Autism Center for Education (Austin, TX)  
Bexar County Adult Protective Services (San Antonio, TX)  
Boys and Girls Club (Georgetown, TX)  
Brookwood in Georgetown (Georgetown, TX)  
The Caring Place (Georgetown, TX)  
CASA Wichita Falls (Wichita Falls, TX)  
The Center for Success and Independence (Houston, TX)  
Central Texas Treatment Center (Granger, TX)  
Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (San Antonio, TX)  
The Christi Center (Austin, TX)  
Genesis Women's Shelter (Dallas, TX)  
Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute (Georgetown, TX)  
Georgetown Police Department Victim Services (Georgetown, TX)  
Girstart (Austin, TX)  
Helping Hand Home (Austin, TX)  
Hope Alliance Center (Round Rock, TX)

Houston Police Department (Houston, TX)  
Lifeworks (Austin, TX)  
LifeSteps (Round Rock, TX)  
MHMR Tarrant County (Fort Worth, TX)  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (Austin, TX)  
National Instruments (Austin, TX)  
OT Connections (Pflugerville, TX)  
Ride On Center for Kids (Georgetown, TX)  
SafePlace (Round Rock, TX)  
Seton Shoal Creek Hospital (Austin, TX)  
South Texas Veterans Healthcare System (San Antonio, TX)  
Spirit Reins (Liberty Hills, TX)  
STARRY: Children at Heart (Round Rock, TX)  
St. David's Georgetown Hospital (Georgetown, TX)  
Tocquigny Advertising (Austin, TX)  
Texas Children's Hospital (Houston, TX)  
Texas Tech Center for Resiliency (Lubbock, TX)  
The Georgetown Project (Georgetown, TX)  
The Locker (Georgetown, TX)  
The Office of the Attorney General (Austin, TX)  
UTD Center for Brain Health (Dallas, TX)  
UT Southwestern (Dallas, TX)  
Williamson County Juvenile Justice Center (Georgetown, TX)

## Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

ABA Therapist (Human Behaviors LLC)  
Behavioral Therapist (Center for Autism and Related Disorders)  
Cancer Information Specialist (American Cancer Society)  
Case Manager (Safeplace, Community Connections)  
Children's Protective Services Specialist II  
Client Services Representative (AIM Mutual Funds)  
Clinical Assistant (Seton Healthcare Family)  
Clinical Research Associate (Medplace)  
Dementia Care Specialist (Baylor Scott & White Healthcare)  
Direct Care Staff (Austin Recovery)  
Enrichment Specialist (Anderson Cancer Center)  
Family Preservation Case Worker (CPS)  
HR Assistant (Sears Customer Network)  
Intake Service Coordinator (Travis County Integral Care)

Investor (Janus)  
Juvenile Detention Officer (Williamson County)  
Legal Assistant (Quan, Burdette & Perez PC)  
Mental Health Associate (San Marcos Treatment Center)  
Mental Health Professional (Travis County MHMR)  
Psychiatric Nurse Assistant (Austin State Hospital)  
Recruiter (Aerotek)  
Research Assistant (UT Health Science Center, San Antonio)  
Shelter Staff (Hope Alliance)  
Social Services Outreach (Capital Area Food Bank of Texas)  
Substance Abuse Counselor (MHMR Tarrant County)  
Teacher (Baby Gator Child Development & Research Center)  
Therapeutic Childcare Specialist (Helping Hand Home for Children)  
Youth Care Counselor (Meridell Achievement Center)

## **Professional Associations**

American Board of Professional Psychology

American Psychological Association

Association for Psychological Science

Association for Women in Psychology

Mental Health America

National Council for Behavioral Health

Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology

Society for Personality and Social Psychology