

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

I put this list together to provide some ideas about different degrees/certifications, professions, organizations, and job titles related to psychology. This is not a comprehensive list. I just sat down and started writing about things I knew off the top-of-my-head. Thus, there are many things missing, BUT this list might give you an idea of a career area that you had not contemplated before. Plus, it might stimulate an idea of where you can try to get paid or volunteer experience as you try to explore the MANY different areas of psychology. Best wishes and enjoy life! Scott W. Plunkett, Ph.D.

DEGREES & CERTIFICATIONS

Some Popular Degrees in Professional Human Services

Bachelor degrees	Master degrees	Doctor degrees
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)	Master of Science (M.S.)	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Master of Arts (M.A.)	Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.)	Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)	Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.)
	Master of Education (M.Ed.)	Education Doctorate (Ed.D.)
	Master of Marriage & Family Therapy (M.F.T.)	Doctor of Marriage & Family Therapy (D.M.F.T.)
	Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)	Doctorate of Public Health (D.P.H.)
	Master of Human Relations (M.H.R.)	Medical Doctorate (M.D.)
	Master of Science in Counseling (M.S.C.)	

A Few Certifications in Professional Human Services*

State/Professional Certifications	Curriculum/Assessment Certifications
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	Marital and premarital enrichment & assessment (e.g., Prepare Enrich)
Certification in Family & Consumer Sciences (CFCS)	Parenting education (e.g., Los Niños Bien Educados, STEP, PET, Positive Parenting)
Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)	Divorce mediation
Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC)	Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
Certified Alcohol Counselor (CAC)	Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory
Certified Drug Counselor (CDC)	Big Five Profile

*Check my webpage for links (<http://www.csun.edu/plunk>)

PROFESSIONALS IN THE HUMAN SERVICES FIELD

Occupational Employment Statistics
http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_stru.htm

- **Psychologist**
 - Ph.D. or Psy.D.– In-depth training in psychotherapy and some training in psychological assessment.
 - 3000 hours of supervised internship/practicum accrued over 2 years (minimum)
 - Passing grade on the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and California Psychology Supplemental Examination (CPSE)
 - **2017 passage rate of psychology licensing exams by universities in each state** (pages 12-29)
https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.asppb.net/resource/resmgr/eppp_/2017_Doctoral_Report.pdf
- **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)** (<https://aamft.org/>)
 - Doctorate or master’s in marriage and family therapy with training in family and relationship issues, psychotherapy, and psychological assessment.
 - 3,000 total supervised hours, over 104 weeks (minimum)
 - Pass a licensing exam (i.e., written examination and clinical vignette examination).
- **Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) / Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) / Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)**
 - Master’s in counseling with specialized training in psychotherapy and psychological assessment
 - 3,000 total supervised hours, over 104 weeks (minimum)
 - Pass a licensing exam (i.e., standard written examination and written clinical vignette examination)
 - For more information in California - <https://www.bbs.ca.gov/applicants/lpcc.html>
- **Social Worker** – <https://www.socialworkers.org/>
 - Improve the life quality of people who are underprivileged and/or who experience social injustices / human rights violations.
 - Provide direct services, advocacy, action research, policy changes, teaching, and community mobilization.
 - Usually requires a master’s degree in social work.
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

**CA Licensing Requirements
for LMFT, LPCC, LCSW**
<https://www.bbs.ca.gov>

- Usually requires a master's degree in social work (i.e., training in connecting clients to community and/or institutional resources) plus additional courses in psychotherapy and psychological assessment
- 3,200 total supervised hours, over 104 weeks (minimum)
- Pass a licensing exam (i.e., standard written examination and written clinical vignette examination)
- **School Psychologist** – <http://www.nasponline.org/>
 - Conducts testing and parent/teacher training to help students with emotional or learning problems.
 - Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP)
 - Usually requires a master's degree in appropriate area (e.g., school psychology)
 - Three years of full-time experience in school psychology (e.g., one year in the credentialed graduate program and two years working full-time as a school psychologist)
 - Pass the LEP licensing exam
- **School Counselor** – <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/>
 - Degree and training vary greatly by state (e.g., master's degree or bachelor's degree plus required courses, licensure or certification/credential, teaching certificate, years of teaching experience).
- **Certified Addiction Counselor**
 - National certifications can be found here – <https://www.naadac.org/certification>
 - California certifying agencies – <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/CounselorCertificationOrganizations.aspx>
 - Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor Associate (CADCA)
 - Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor I (CADC-I)
 - Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor II (CADC-II)
 - Licensed Advanced Alcohol Drug Counselor (LAADC)
- **College Counselor**
 - Assist college students in academics, personal/social development, and career development.
 - Usually requires a master's degree in college counseling and student personnel.
- **Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA)** – <https://www.bacb.com/>
 - Conduct and interpret behavioral assessments and then use behavioral modification therapy based on the results of the analysis
 - **Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)** – high school degree paraprofessional who works under close supervision of an ABA professional
 - **Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA)** – bachelor's degree certification
 - **Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)** – complete appropriate graduate degree in behavior analysis, complete a defined period of practical experience, and pass the BCBA exam
 - **BCBA-D** – doctoral level training in ABA
- **Psychiatrist**
 - M.D. with four-year psychiatric residency; thus, can prescribe and administer medication.
 - Training focuses on the biological aspects of mental conditions with some training in psychotherapy.
 - Assess and treat mental illnesses through a combination of psychotherapy, hospitalization, and medication.
- **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**
 - Master's in advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) with additional training in psychotherapy and administering psychiatric medication.
 - APRN's can prescribe medications in many states.
- **Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR)**
 - They work with patients who have a mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling condition. The goal is to improve the patient's ability to perform necessary tasks in their day-to-day lives.
 - Graduate from a post-baccalaureate degree program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, complete 24 weeks of supervised fieldwork, and pass the national certifying exam.

CAREER AREAS, DEGREES, & ORGANIZATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY RELATED FIELDS

ORGANIZATIONS/SERVICES – these types of programs could provide a place to volunteer and/or work

- Abuse prevention services
- Adoption services
- Afterschool programs
- AIDS / Sexually transmitted diseases
- American Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html>)
- Anti-gang resources

American Psychological Association
<https://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/careers>

- Autism services
- Battered persons / adult abuse / domestic violence shelter
- Bereavement / grief support
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters – national organization
- Blogging and social media
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Boys and Girls Club
- Boys Town (<https://www.boystown.org/>)
- California Alliance (<https://cacfs.memberclicks.net/>)
- **California Department of Social Services** (<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/>)
 - Adoption Services
 - Cal–Learn program – helps pregnant and parenting teens to attend and graduate from high school or its equivalent
 - Child Protection Services – obtains facts from referral to determine if the referral alleges abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - License Program Analyst – Licensing, evaluating, and monitoring programs and facilities (e.g., child care homes, family day care homes, client case loads, etc.).
 - Out of Home Placement – provide case management services for youth (who live away from home) and their families
 - Family Preservation and Support Services
- **Children's Home Society of California** – adoption, foster care, and post adoption agency
- Camp Fire (<https://campfire.org/>)
- Child abuse prevention/treatment
- **Childcare centers** – Childcare centers provide school-day and work-day supervision for young children
 - Corporate childcare
- **Childcare Resource Center** (<http://ccrcla.org>)
- Children's museum education
- Community mental health centers
- Consumer resources & assistance
- Cooperative Extension
 - Family life specialists
 - Human development specialists
 - 4-H specialists / 4-H youth development
 - Professional and community educators
- Crisis and hotline services
 - Crisis Text Line (<http://www.crisistextline.org/volunteer>)
- Day camps
- **Day treatment** – Day treatment is any non–residential intensive service program occurring during the day, evening, or weekend which provides an array of treatment services and education assistance based upon a youth's needs.
- Disability services / regional centers
- Disaster/Safety services
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- **Easter Seals** – screen clients, fund raising (<https://www.easterseals.com/>)
- Eating disorders / food addictions
- Emergency assistance
- Employment offices / employment/job training
- Ethnic/Cultural services
- Family court
- Family peace and justice education
- **Family preservation / Family focus / home-based services** – These programs provide counseling, education, prevention and intervention services to the family in their homes.
- Family planning / pregnancy
- Financial planning
- **Foster care** – Foster care is a protective service for children and families. The children are provided with a substitute or supplemental family life experience in an licensed home for a planned, temporary period of time.
- Funeral services
- Future Homemakers of America (FHA)/HERO
- **Group homes** – Group homes provide 24-hour residential for State and parent custody youth.
- **Head Start** – The Head Start program is a preschool program for ages 4 and up from a lower socio–economic children. This program also tries to help the parents recognize available resources.

- **Health Department** – The health department provides medical services (pregnancy testing, AIDS testing, tuberculosis testing, etc.), community education, teen–parenting programs.
- **Homeless shelters** – Provide both residential and short–term (72 hours or less) services for homeless adults and families.
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Hotlines & referral services
- Housing assistance
- Immigration and migration services
- **Independent living programs** – Provide youth the necessary skills for self–sufficiency and successful adult living
- Immigration/Refugee Programs
- **Juvenile justice**
 - **Juvenile diversion programs or status offender/misdemeanor programs** – These programs provide preventive services to those youth who commit status offenses or misdemeanors. The goal is to keep these youth from becoming repeat offenders by requiring the youth and their families to participate in educational and counseling groups.
 - **Juvenile detention centers** – Los Angeles Probation Dept. Juvenile Halls and Camps – <http://probation.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/probation/juvenile>
- Legal assistance
- Libraries
- Literacy/ESL programs
- Marital/Premarital enrichment
- March of Dimes
- Mental health services
- Military Family Support Services
- **Nonresidential Diagnostic and Evaluation Services (D&E)** – D&E programs provide comprehensive, community–based, assessments of children utilizing the local resources of clinicians, youth shelters, and other community–based programs.
- **Nonresidential Substance Abuse Programs** – These programs provide individual, group, and/or family chemical dependency treatment. They may be independent or function as part of a day treatment program or youth services program.
- Optical services / visually impaired
- Orphanages
- **Parent education / parent outreach centers or programs** – Provide parent education or access to resources for parents.
- Peace Corps
- Pregnancy services (e.g., teen pregnancy, low-income pregnant women, prenatal education)
- **Prevention programs** – These programs provide anti–victimization, substance use/abuse, etc. education to youth and community organizations. Often times the prevention programs will reach youth through their schools.
- Prisons
- **Private, for–profit, counseling/therapy agencies** – These agencies provide individual, family and group counseling. The waiting list is generally not as long as nonprofit agencies. They generally take insurance and have a different clientele than non–profit agencies. They often have more stringent qualifications for employment than non–profit.
- Probation
- Public and private schools
- Public health programs
- **Recreation and parks** (<http://www.laparks.org>)
- Rehabilitation centers
- Residential treatment centers
- Services for older adults
 - Adult daycare centers
 - Gerontology programs
 - Hospice
 - Retirement homes / senior citizen homes
 - Skilled clinical nursing facilities
- Salvation Army
- Sexual violence prevention
- Soup kitchens
- Strength United (<https://www.csun.edu/eisner-education/strength-united>)
- Special education
- Teen pregnancy prevention and assistance
- Translation services

- United Way
- **Urban League** – A civil rights organization focused on promoting economic empowerment and increasing the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities.
- Veteran/Military services
- Victim/Witness support services
- Vocational and technical training centers / job training
- Volunteers of America Los Angeles (<http://voala.org>)
- Volunteer services
- YMCA / YWCA
- Youth development programs
- Youth shelters
- Youth transition / emancipation

TYPES OF POSITIONS – you could use these labels for types of positions when doing a job search

- **Positions with Undergraduate Degrees** – Generally requires at least a bachelor's degree in child development, family studies, psychology, sociology, social work, education, or related area.
 - Academic advising
 - Activities director for senior programs
 - Addiction counselor
 - Adoption examiner or post adoption
 - After-school program director
 - AIDS counselor
 - Behavior specialist/technician
 - Camp director
 - Case manager
 - Child advocate
 - Child development specialist (requires M.S.)
 - Child life specialists – these positions are generally found in larger hospitals.
 - Child mental health specialist
 - Child welfare professional
 - Childcare administrator
 - Corrections officer
 - Crisis/hotline worker
 - Day care trainer/teacher/administrator
 - Employment counselor / employee assistance
 - Family financial specialist / family financial counselor
 - Family life educator
 - Family services specialist
 - Genetic counselor
 - Grief Recovery Specialist Homeless shelter director
 - Hospital playroom play therapist
 - Human development consultant
 - Human relations specialist
 - Human resources specialist
 - Intake coordinator
 - Market researcher
 - Mental health assistance
 - Mental health technician
 - Non-profit coordinator
 - Parent educator
 - Parole officer
 - Patient care specialist
 - Police officer
 - Preschool or day-care center teacher
 - Preschool or day care center director
 - Prevention program worker
 - Prevention specialist
 - Prison social worker

- Probation officer
- Probation officer
- Program coordinator/director
- Program manager
- Psychosocial rehabilitation specialist
- Recreational coordinator
- Recreational specialist
- Reentry coordinator
- Registered behavior technician (RBT)
- Rehabilitation counselor
- Rehabilitation specialist
- Senior citizen service manager
- Social worker
- Substance abuse counselor
- Vocational guidance
- Workforce service representative
- Youth programs director
- Youth service worker
- **Education Positions** – Generally requires a bachelor's in early childhood education, elementary education, or secondary education
 - Preschool teacher
 - Private school teacher
 - Public school teacher (requires certification)
 - Substitute teacher
 - Teacher in a treatment facility, day treatment, or group home
- **Education Positions** – Generally requires a master's or doctorate of education
 - College counselor
 - Guidance and/or career counselor
 - Psychometrist – design, administer, and interpret quantitative tests for the measurement of psychological variables such as intelligence, aptitude, and personality traits
 - Special education teacher
 - School counselor
 - School psychologist
 - Vocational counselor
- **Positions that generally require a graduate degree** – Generally requires a master's degree with licensure or a doctorate degree in family studies, social work, psychology, or related area
 - Counseling psychologist
 - Data scientist
 - Divorce mediator
 - Gerontologist
 - Licensed clinical psychologist
 - Licensed professional counselor
 - Licensed marriage and family therapist
 - Occupational therapist
 - Professor or lecturer
 - Program evaluator
 - Social worker and licensed clinical social worker
 - Psychiatric aide
 - Psychiatrist
 - Social psychologists
 - Sports psychologist
- **Positions that may or may not require a degree, but can give a person experience**
 - Camp counselor
 - Child care worker
 - Direct care worker in a group home, youth shelter, senior citizen home, treatment facility, etc.
 - Geriatric aid – works in nursing homes under supervision of registered and licensed nurses
 - Home health aid
 - Homemakers – assist families in crisis with food preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, marketing, and childcare
 - Peace Corps volunteer