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Masters clinical psychology job opportunities

There is a wide array of potential careers with a psychology degree, including jobs in counseling, marketing, social work, and more. The key is finding a career that aligns with your personal and professional goals. Learn where a career in psychology can take you. Counseling Careers Counselors can work in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, and private outpatient clinics. A few examples of counseling careers in psychology include: Career counselor: A career counselor helps professionals set and achieve career goals, assisting with strategic things like interviewing and negotiating, as well as aspirational goals like choosing a new career path. Grief counselor: These therapists offer support to clients coping with loss or trauma, providing an open and safe space for emotional vulnerability. Life coach: These professionals work with clients to achieve a variety of personal, professional, and social goals, such as improving relationships, identifying personal obstacles, forming healthy habits, and more. School counselors: These professionals help students navigate academic, emotional, and social development. Substance abuse counselors: A substance abuse counselor works with those battling addiction to identify triggers and achieve sobriety through various therapies and recovery mechanisms. The minimum education requirement to start a career in counseling is typically a master's degree in psychology, as well as professional certification and licensure. If your goal is to be a licensed counselor and provide therapy services, it's important to find a psychology program that offers specific coursework to support your goals. This should include the appropriate credit hours and supervised clinical practice. Therapist Careers Therapists and counselors are often referred to interchangeably, and with good reason: Both psychology careers involve using various therapeutic techniques while working with clients, such as talk therapy, art therapy, and more. If you're interested in a career as a therapist, learn more about the skills and requirements of various therapist careers. Applied behavioral analyst (ABA): ABA therapy focuses on helping clients improve behaviors including communication and social skills, learning abilities, specific task completions, and more. Cognitive-behavioral therapist (CBT): CBTs use therapy to change unhealthy thinking patterns and offer healthier coping mechanisms through difficult situations. Creative arts therapist: These professionals use creative outlets of self-expression to provide mental health support to clients. Marriage and family therapist: A licensed marriage and family therapist provides services to couples looking to work through marital issues or strengthen their relationship. Most therapist careers in psychology require a master's degree at minimum to practice with clients, which can be part of a larger doctoral program if your goal is to be a licensed psychologist. Your master's program will be followed by supervised clinical hours dictated by your state's licensing board before you can test for your state therapist license. Psychologist Careers Psychologists typically work with patients that have been diagnosed with more severe mental disorders, such as borderline personality disorder, clinical depression, schizophrenia, and more. Psychologists can also transition into academia or research, rather than clinical or counseling practice. Psychology professions include: Clinical psychologist: A clinical psychologist diagnoses and treats patients with mental health concerns. Industrial-organizational psychologist (I/O): These professionals apply psychological practices and theories to an organization to improve morale, increase productivity, and more. Forensic psychologist: These professionals work with courts and law enforcement to provide psychological expertise as it relates to crime. Licensed school psychologist: School psychologists provide therapy to students struggling with a variety of emotional, behavioral, social, and academic issues, and support the entire student body during crises or traumatic events. Sports psychologist: A sports psychologist focuses on the interplay of psychology and athletics, working with athletes to enhance and optimize their performance by caring for their mental health. Neuropsychologist: Neuropsychologists study the inner workings of the brain and how brain function contributes to behavior, emotion, and thinking. Though some disciplines may only require a master's degree, most of these careers in psychology require a doctorate (Ph.D. or Psy.D.). Psychologists with a Psy.D. typically work in a clinical or counseling capacity. While those with a Ph.D. just as often work in a clinical or counseling role, they also often pursue academic research or teach at the college or university level. Social Worker Careers Social workers require a deep understanding of psychology, as they often work with marginalized and at-risk populations who may be enduring trauma or mental illness. This psychology career involves helping connect patients to applicable treatment or support programs in various settings: Child and family social worker: This career involves advocating for at-risk children and assisting in situations of abuse and neglect. Licensed clinical social worker: These professionals use personalized treatment plans to help clients manage mental and emotional hardships. School social worker: School social workers work with students, parents, and teachers to provide support and early interventions for issues that arise in the classroom. For certain entry-level roles, you can start your career as a social worker after completing a bachelor's degree. However licensure for careers in psychology related to social services require a master's in social work or higher. Other Careers with a Psychology Degree There are many other industries in which a psychology degree is incredibly beneficial. Advertising, marketing, and law are centered around human behavior, and having a better understanding of how humans think and respond can help influence customers, juries, and more. Other less obvious psychology careers include: Business administration College admissions counselor Customer service director Environmental psychologist Executive coaching Human resources manager Medical record keeper Organizational director Preschool teacher Psychology Degrees Your professional goals will dictate which psychology degree makes the most sense for you. Some employers will welcome you with a bachelor's degree, whereas others require you to earn your doctorate in psychology. You can even pursue an online psychology degree that fits your schedule and your lifestyle, making it even easier to pursue your passion as you work. Associate degree in psychology: Offers general education subjects as well as classes meant as introductions to the theories and practices of psychology. Bachelor's degree in psychology: Provides a foundation in psychological research methods, practices, and tools. You'll focus on topics like behavioral management, childhood development, and cognitive processes, with the option to begin a concentration in an area you may want to pursue. Master's degree in psychology: Allows you to specialize in an area of study, such as forensic psychology, school counseling, or social psychology. Your MA or MS program will likely involve an internship or supervised practice to gain field experience. Doctorate in psychology: Required if you want to practice in any clinical capacity, as a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, or if you want to pursue scientific research. Whether you're interested in working with kids, have a passion for advocating for the mentally ill, or want to pursue a lifetime of academic research into the human mind, a career in psychology fits the bill. Your psychology degree can open countless doors, with more industries realizing the value that psychology experts bring to the table. Find the right psychology program for you today and set yourself up for a lifetime of fulfillment and success. Discover the latest job opportunities and career prospects in the field of psychology.To search through all the latest vacancies, visit our specialist jobs board, Jobs in Psychology, where you can refine your search by discipline, location or salary.Visit Jobs in PsychologySign up for job alertsBe the first to apply - get daily alerts with the latest jobs sent directly to your inbox.Create a job alert nowWhether you're looking to work with children, older people, people with mental illnesses, or any other segment of the population, there's a range of sub-disciplines in the field of psychology for almost any interest:From psychology graduate jobs to roles within the wider psychological workforce, the job market for psychologists is expected to grow much faster than average in the coming years, so now is a great time to consider a rewarding career in psychology.How can I best prepare for a job interview?You're studying hard, but how do you make sure you secure your dream job?Coming across well in a job interview is an important step towards your landing your perfect job, and there are lots of psychological tips to make sure you come out on top.The BPS Division of Occupational Psychology have put together some top tips for job interviews to help you stand out from the crowd. It is true that it can sometimes take a long time to earn a clinical psychology degree, but for many it is well worth the time, effort and commitment it takes to get it.One of the main advantages of having an advanced degree (master's and/or doctorate) in clinical psychology is that it opens up doors for you in a variety of different psychological industries.For instance, with a doctorate in clinical psychology you can become a college professor, researcher, psychologist (in any field that provides services), etc.You can also provide counseling services to specific groups: children, families, marital couples, ethnic and cultural groups, the elderly, those with chronic illnesses, religious individuals, etc.One of the best perks is that you will more than likely have more say in the hours that you work (especially if you have your own practice). You can do a lot of things with a degree in clinical psychology and this article will help you chart the path to success.What are the Careers in Clinical Psychology?Following are some of the popular careers you can pursue with a clinical psychology degree:Clinical PsychologistChild PsychologistCounseling PsychologistMedical PsychologistMental Health Social WorkerNeuropsychologistPrivate PsychologistRehabilitation PsychologistSchool PsychologistClinical Social Worker and Clinical Case ManagerSpecial Education TeacherSubstance Abuse CounselorClinical Psychology College ProfessorBehavioral Health PsychologistAs a behavioral health psychologist, you typically work with clients in individual and group settings to help them overcome behavioral difficulties like addiction. That means that your job isn't just counseling your clients, but also helping them identify triggers, learn coping skills, and generally helping them to function in a healthier manner. You may work as a behavioral health counselor with a master's degree and find many employment opportunities.Child PsychologistOne of the most popular fields of psychology is child psychology. A doctorate in clinical psychology can allow you to work as a child psychologist at schools, inpatient or outpatient treatment facilities, juvenile detention centers, mental hospitals, clinics, research laboratories and/or private practices.Your main responsibilities will include: teaching children and adolescents healthy coping and communication skills, helping children work through emotional distress, improving the learning experience for students, counseling mentally ill children and adolescents, providing academic guidance to students, altering unhealthy, destructive and dangerous thinking patterns and behaviors and providing support.Your goal will be to develop tailor-made treatment plans for your clients that consist of a variety of psychological techniques, methods and strategies such as role-playing with dolls and/or writing in a journal.Clinical Case ManagerWith a background in clinical psychology, you might work as a clinical case manager. In this position, you would most likely be responsible for managing a caseload of clients with very diverse needs, though, in some employment settings, clinical case managers might specialize with a certain population (i.e., clients with eating disorders).Primarily, your function would be to maintain periodic contact with each client, connect them with necessary resources, and help them work through problems. Some clinical case management positions can be found with just a bachelor's degree, but you will find more job opportunities with a master's degree.Clinical Psychology College ProfessorIf you enjoy psychology as well as teaching others, a career as a clinical psychology college professor might be a good fit. Typically, psychology professors have had a number of years of experience working in the field, either in a clinical or research setting.Once you have some experience, you can draw on those experiences to assist your students in better understanding key psychological concepts and practices. Junior professor positions are often open to you if you have a master's degree, but to become a tenured professor, a doctorate is typically required.Clinical Social WorkerAs a clinical social worker, your tasks might be to assist clients in two primary areas: procuring needed resources to live (i.e., job assistance, rent assistance) and helping them work through personal problems that are causing difficulties in their lives (i.e., depression, anxiety).Often, clinical social workers are employed in treatment centers, hospitals, and residential facilities, though you can also work in private practice and other settings. Though some clinical social workers have just a bachelor's degree in social work, many states require social workers to have a master's degree in order to become a licensed clinical social worker.Counseling PsychologistIf you pursue a career as a counseling psychologist, you may work with clients to improve their well-being by addressing behavioral, emotional, and mental difficulties that have negatively impacted their lives.Typically, you would meet with clients in a counseling setting, and talk through issues in a very personal and non-threatening way. Sometimes you might simply listen; other times you might help them build skills. Many counseling psychologists practice with a master's degree.Medical PsychologistAs a medical psychologist, you work with patients whose physiological functioning is negatively impacted by their behavior. That is, you would address topics like disease prevention and healthy lifestyle choices in the context of a clinical psychology setting.For example, if a patient complains of constant, severe headaches, you would strive to understand the behaviors that might make headaches more likely. If headaches result from drinking a lot of coffee in the morning to wake up after not getting enough sleep the night before, you would work with the client to develop better sleeping habits.Mental Health Social WorkerWith a bachelor's or master's degree in clinical psychology, you can become a mental health social worker. Your primary responsibilities will be to provide counseling services and resources (under the supervision of a psychologist or psychiatrist) to clients and/or patients.Some of your other duties may include: conducting crisis intervention groups, developing outreach programs for at-risk youth, helping clients re-enter the community, helping clients find housing, daycare services, sign up for healthcare and government assistance, taking clients to school, doctor's appointments, etc. You may also help individuals work through social, work, family, relationship and/or personal issues.NeuropsychologistWith an advanced degree (doctorate) in clinical psychology you may be able to enter the field of neuropsychology. This field focuses on brain processes and behaviors. If you decide to pursue this career field, you will more than likely work at a trauma centers for brain-injuries and/or stroke survivors, hospitals (in the trauma department) or at a research laboratory.Your main responsibilities will be to determine the extent of a brain injury or brain damage by assessing the patient's cognitive performance. You will use a variety of psychological assessments, equipment and techniques to interview, observe, evaluate, diagnose and treat patients with abnormal brain function/activity and cognitive deficits.Private PsychologistIf you choose to work for yourself in private practice, you might enjoy many benefits of being self-employed, like being able to focus on an area of psychology that you enjoy the most.For example, as a private psychologist, you may work primarily with children, people with anxiety, or specialize in mood disorders. Private psychologists must possess at least a master's degree, though it's often prudent to pursue a doctorate to open up more job opportunities.PsychotherapistIf you work as a psychotherapist, you meet with clients, usually in a one-on-one clinical setting, to assist them in bringing about personal change that helps them overcome problems or obstacles in their lives.Psychotherapy is a form of clinical psychology that emphasizes the value of developing a trusting relationship with the client and relying on talking, listening, and relationship building to bring about positive change.Rehabilitation PsychologistAs a rehabilitation psychologist, you would rely on the principles of clinical psychology to assist your clients in identifying mental illnesses, behavioral disorders, disabilities, and so forth, which have a negative impact on their ability to function normally. For example, you might treat a client for depression as it relates to the recent loss of a limb, such as their leg.In the context of counseling, you might help the client build skills that help them minimize the impact of their disability or provide exercises that help them focus on the positive aspects of their life to help them overcome their depression.School PsychologistAs a school psychologist, you typically use psychological principles to assist students in improving their ability to learn, improve their behavior, and address their mental health concerns.Additionally, you might also work directly with teachers to develop age-appropriate lesson plans that support student learning and enhance their ability to develop the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in school and in life. School psychologists usually have at least a master's degree, of which part of the degree program is a supervised internship period.Special Education TeacherWith a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology, you may be able to enter the field of education as a special education teacher.Your educational background may help you provide services to students with mental, physical and emotional developmental delays and learning disabilities. You may work with students that have mild disabilities or you may work with students that have moderate-to-severe disabilities.Your primary goal will be to make sure that disabled students receive the best education possible. Your main function will be to tweak classroom curriculum to ensure that your students are learning what they need to learn to function to the best of their abilities. You may teach basic curriculum (math, English, science and social studies) at a slower pace or you may teach independent living skills (brushing teeth, bathing, paying bills, making decisions, cooking, socializing, etc.).Substance Abuse CounselorAnother possible career path you can take if you have a master's degree in clinical psychology is substance abuse counseling. It is important to note that some states will allow you to practice as a substance abuse counselor with a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology, so it is important to research your state's requirements before enrolling in a clinical psychology program.With this degree, you will be able to counsel clients addicted to alcohol, drugs, gambling and/or food. You may also develop community outreach programs, and/or educate the public about the dangers of substance abuse.Counseling may occur in a private office or it may occur in a group setting. You will primarily work at a substance abuse treatment center, hospital, clinic or private practice.Related ReadingReferences and Further Reading For those interested in working in the field of psychology, the work you want to do will determine what to study and the relevant experience you need to collect. Students of psychology generally have infinite possibilities before them in a broad range of fields when choosing a line of work which suits them. But for those who want a career geared towards helping patients and families, studying clinical psychology is the best and most direct path to achieving those goals. Potential students may be wondering which degree path is best for them when it comes to choosing whether a particular degree satisfies their career goals. Below are a few key pieces of information to understand if you're curious about whether a master's in clinical psychology is the right choice and what you can do with such a degree. What is Clinical Psychology?According to the American Psychological Association (APA), clinical psychology is defined as a psychological specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioral health care for individuals and families. Clinical psychologists are concerned with the assessment and treatment of mental illness, abnormal behavior, and psychiatric problems. In the most traditional sense of a psychologist, we tend to think of individuals who provide therapy to their patients through a private, independent practice. In this sense, these working professionals are more than likely to have studied clinical psychology. Working as a psychotherapist isn't the only reason to study clinical psychology, but it is a common career path for some psychologists. Approaches to TreatmentClinical psychologists often utilize different treatment approaches when working with patients. While some have a very specific focus on the kind of treatment to administer, many clinicians draw on different theoretical methods to develop the best treatment plan for each patient.Here are a few major theoretical perspectives within clinical psychology: Psychodynamic: Spurred by one of the world's most famous minds in the field, Sigmund Freud believed that the unconscious mind plays an important role in our behavior. Psychologists who utilize psychoanalytic therapy may use techniques such as free association to investigate a client's underlying, unconscious motivations.Cognitive, behavioral: Developed from the cognitive and behavioral schools of thought, these perspectives look at how a client's feelings, behaviors, and thoughts interact. Cognitive and behavioral therapy often focuses on changing thoughts and behaviors that contribute to psychological distress.Humanistic: This approach came about from humanist thinkers such as Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. This perspective treats patients from a more holistic standpoint and focuses on things such as self-actualization.The Path to Licensure: PsyD vs. Ph.D. vs. Master'sBefore diving into potential careers, it's important to understand that to work as a psychologist, many states have specific guidelines set forth by their appropriate licensing boards. In some cases, states require that applicants must have a doctoral degree in order to receive full licensure.That's not to say that a master's in clinical psychology by itself limits job opportunities. For example, in the state of West Virginia, applicants can achieve master's level licensure to become a psychologist, school psychologist, or school psychologist at an independent practice.But to become some kind of clinical psychologist in many states, students should know that one of the doctorate degrees below will be necessary down the line:PsyD—Doctor of PsychologyDeveloped as an alternative to Ph.D. psychology programs, a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program is intended for practitioners who are interested solely in the hands-on, straightforward practice of psychology. This means that unlike a Ph.D. degree, a PsyD focuses exclusively on clinical work to prepare themselves to practice psychology in a range of settings. Because of the stronger focus on more clinical practice, this requires less time spent on research. In the end, students could potentially attain their PsyD doctorate more quickly than they would with a Ph.D. However, because of the lack of research, Ph.D. graduates could have more opportunities in their careers.Ph.D.—Doctor of Philosophy in PsychologyConsidered the traditional route, a Ph.D. in psychology places a strong emphasis on research, meaning students will spend a considerable amount of time in academia to receive their degree. Programs typically have rigorous entrance requirements and can be quite competitive to gain acceptance. In comparison to a PsyD, a Ph.D. in psychology can open up a multitude of career paths; from teaching to patient care, to forensic psychology, to academia, and more. To become a licensed psychologist in some states, applicants will need to complete one of the two mentioned doctorate programs to be eligible for licensure.Benefits of Getting Your Masters in Clinical PsychologyGetting a master's in clinical psychology is a helpful stepping stone to getting into a reputable doctorate program. However, the benefits of getting a master's degree aren't limited to becoming a Ph.D. or PsyD.Here's a look at three types of individuals who will benefit by studying clinical psychology at the master's level. 1. Pursuing a DoctoratePrimarily, one of the best reasons to enroll in a master's program for clinical psychology is to prepare you and strengthen your knowledge when enrolling in a doctoral program. What many don't know is that a master's degree is not required to gain admission to those programs.But as mentioned above, Ph.D. and PsyD programs are extremely difficult to get into, even with impressive grades without a master's degree. Completing a master's level of study gives students a more advanced proficiency in clinical psychology, which matters to schools considering new doctoral students. Additionally, master's degrees are typically awarded for completion of a lengthy clinical internship on top of their coursework. The experience gained during such an internship is invaluable when programs consider applicants for their doctoral programs.So, if you want to improve your chances of being admitted into a doctorate program, a master's degree should be kept in mind. 2. Students Without Prior Psychology CourseworkFor students without any experience or former coursework in psychology, a master's degree is an attractive option to get into the field. Most schools with a master's program in clinical psychology do require applicants to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and sufficient scores in the GRE subject test in psychology. However, a bachelor's degree in psychology is certainly not required to gain admission into most programs. 3. Career Switching—No One is Too Old!Many people often wonder about the prospect of finding alternative career paths. For older individuals, many fear that their age determines their chances of jumping into a new line of work. The truth is that no one is too old to switch careers. Age is never a determining factor for master's level students. Provided you have a bachelor's degree and prepare for the GRE, a master's education is well within reach. As it happens, the U.S. currently has a high demand for workers with a master's in clinical psychology. There are several paths one could take after completing a program. Once students have received their master's degree, they can either move on to getting their Ph.D. or PsyD or begin working right away. Outside of further education, here are a few careers that are possible with a master's in clinical psychology:School/Career CounselorCounseling PsychologistForensic PsychologistMarriage & Family TherapistSubstance Abuse CounselorLearning Disabilities SpecialistMaster's in Clinical Psychology — Final ThoughtsThe possibilities are endless for students of psychology as the insights gained can be applied to so many different career paths. Psychologists are in demand for way more than typical clinical settings. Whether you eventually want to enroll in a doctorate program or you're interested in one of the many careers which do not require a doctoral degree, getting your master's in clinical psychology is an immensely valuable tool to get into the field of psychology. Interested in learning more about the M.A. in Clinical Psychology program here at West Liberty University? Schedule a virtual visit today to get started.