Careers in Psychology – Doctorate Degree

One of the biggest mistakes people make when trying to reach their educational and career goals is failing to truly explore and research the career paths they plan to pursue. Some of the obvious questions you should ask yourself are:

- Does the career path fit my personality?
- Would doing this job, day in and day out, make me happy?
- Do time constraints align with my family commitments or need for a personal life?
- Is the typical salary enough to reach my income goals?
- How much schooling will I need and what kind of time and costs am I willing to commit to my education?

These are some of the fields within psychology one can explore with a doctorate degree. The salaries listed are just estimates and do not reflect the many different career paths within each field that one may take:

*Behavioral Neuroscience - $80,530*

The field of behavioral neuroscience focuses on the biology of behavior, combining the psychology of perception, learning, memory, cognition, and emotions with underlying neural and physiological processes. A behavioral neuroscientist would be able to share the latest research on teen behaviors and the connection of these behaviors to brain biology – some of the most popular and groundbreaking research taking place in the field today.

*Clinical Psychology - $73,720*

Clinical psychologists are the psychologists in charge of analyzing, identifying, treating, and preventing mental disorders and issues. They cannot prescribe medical treatment; instead, they work in private practice, state-run hospitals, or academic environments studying psychological disorders like schizophrenia and depression. Their job is to help their patients identify, understand, and treat both common and serious mental disorders.

*Cognitive Neuroscience - $80,530*

Cognitive neuroscience examines and understand brain functions and how they relate to behavior and development. Their primary job responsibility is to study and conduct research on how and why humans think and behave the way they do. They combine science and psychological knowledge to try and understand how behavior and actions are controlled by neural activity and functions.

*Counseling Psychology - $73,720*

Counseling psychologists work to promote beneficial personal and interpersonal functioning throughout one’s lifespan. Unlike clinical psychologists, counseling psychologists work with individuals who have minor life stressors and less severe diagnoses. Mainly, they help individuals with physical, emotional and mental health issues to promote optimal functioning as well as to dissolve feelings of distress and crises.

*Health Psychology - $73,720*

By understanding the mental, emotional, and socioeconomic factors that might lead to certain illnesses doctors can also have a better understanding of how to prevent these illnesses. Health psychology also plays a role in helping medical professionals understand the mental and emotional effects of certain illnesses. This not only refers to the effects of certain symptoms on patients, but also the behavioral, social, and economic ramifications that illnesses might have as well.
**Industrial/Organizational Psychology - $82,760**
Industrial-organizational psychologists are scientists who study employees, the workplace environment, and organizational structure. They are tasked with determining how to make an organization more productive and efficient by examining employee behaviors and the motivations behind them, external workplace influencers, and infrastructure in place and how it can be improved. They try to identify spots where effectiveness and efficiency can be improved through hiring best practices, feedback, and training drills.

**School Psychology - $73,720**
School psychologists have the job of aiding children and youth to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally by collaborating with others in the school environment to provide the most supportive learning environments for students. They are trained in education and psychology and often deal with child development, learning disabilities, external factors, curriculum and instruction, and other factors that may influence an educational environment.

**Social Psychology - $77,020**
The job of the social psychologist is to study social factors such as perception and interaction and determine how they affect and influence the behavior of individuals or large groups. They spend a lot of time researching and analyzing human behavior in hopes of better understanding the psychology influenced by social factors. Their primary job is to observe and analyze human interaction in certain social settings.

**Psychiatrist - $194,740**
Trained in medical, psychological and social components of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. They order diagnostic tests, prescribe medications, practice psychotherapy, and help patients and their families cope with stress and crises. Psychiatrists often consult with primary care physicians and psychotherapists, such as psychologists and social workers. Psychiatrists hold an MD, not a PhD.

*Programs offered at UAlbany*

Salaries are estimated from [http://www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)