University of Pittsburgh
PSYCHOLOGY ADVISING OFFICE
Suggested Career Search Timeline

Freshman-sophomore-junior year-
It is never too early to begin your job search. These first three years of college provide a valuable time to start exploring different careers. You can begin this search by taking advantage of the psychology department’s experiential learning opportunities (directed research, supervised field placement, undergraduate teaching assistant). You can also experience different careers by interviewing different professionals, shadowing experts in the field, and working summer jobs or internships where you might be interested in employment after graduation. Pitt’s Career Development and Placement Assistance might be of some assistance in locating these professionals and/or positions. Remember, the experience is valuable if it helps you determine whether you could envision yourself in the field. Some of these opportunities might lead directly to a job offer. This is a key time to sharpen skills, develop working relationships for possible references, and maintain or boost your GPA.

Senior year-
September/October/November/December
- Update resume.
- Visit the Career Development & Placement Assistance for resume review and assistance in strategizing for your job search. The Psychology Career Consultant is Ryan Sweeny, rsweeny@pitt.edu, 412-383-4473.
- Continue to be active in the professional organizations you belong to - if you are not in one, JOIN ONE!
- Enroll on professional listservs and attend professional conferences.
- Attend Career Services employer sessions, networking sessions, on-campus interviews, and job fairs.
- NETWORK- even if a job is not open, schedule informational meetings with employers to make contacts.

January/February
- Continue updating resume with new research/employment/internship experience as well as add new GPA and any honors.
- Create extensive list of contact information and positions at targeted organizations and begin contacting employers regarding full-time positions.
- Continue networking with your current list and look to expand. Include faculty members, former classmates, presenters, and conferences you attended.
- Check/search job postings on national sites, as well as individual company sites weekly.
- Make an appointment with the Career Development and Placement Assistance to review interview skills and techniques.
- Begin sending resumes to contacts in companies and posted jobs.
- Attend Career Services on campus information sessions, on campus interview sessions, networking opportunities, and career fairs.

March
- Continue searching national/local sites for new postings.
- Continue updating resume and submitting job applications to new opportunities.
- Begin interviewing off-campus.
- Follow up on resumes you have distributed.
- Continue to re-establish contact with your networking contacts.

April-May
- Continue interviewing off-campus.
- Finish interviewing and compare all job offers (including cost of living, possible relocation costs, room for advancement, etc.).
- Accept job offer and set start date.
- GRADUATE!
The following is a non-exhaustive list of occupations that psychology majors can pursue compiled by Dr. Drew C. Appleby, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He compiled this list based on research from his psychology students and alumni of IUPUI, Marky Lloyd’s Careers in Psychology website (www.psychwww.com/careers), The UNC Wilmington Career Services website (www.uncwil.edu/staff/career/Majors/psychology.html), and a search of the Department of Labor’s Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). You will find descriptions of these occupations in the Information Technology Associates online version of the DOT (www.occupationalinfo.org). Type either the partial or full title listed below in the search options to locate the correct page. For the DOT official job title, please consult the Dr. Appleby handout.

The list is divided into entry level positions (some needing specialized training in the field beyond an undergraduate degree in psychology) and positions that need a graduate degree.

**Entry Level positions**

- Activities Director
- Admissions Evaluator
- Advertising Sales Representative
- Alumni Director
- Animal Trainer
- Applied Statistician
- Benefits Manager
- Career Information Specialist
- Caseworker
- Child Development Specialist
- Child Welfare/Placement Caseworker
- Claims Supervisor
- Coach
- Community Organization Worker
- Community Worker
- Computer Programmer
- Conservation Officer
- Correctional Treatment Specialist
- Corrections Officer
- Criminal Investigator (FBI and other)
- Crisis Intervention Counselor
- Customs/Immigration Officer
- Customer Service Representative
- Data Base Administrator
- Data Base Design Analyst
- Delinquency Prevention Social Worker
- Department Manager
- Dietitian
- Employee Health Maintenance Prg. Specialist
- Employee Relations Specialist
- Employment Counselor
- Employment Interviewer
- Financial Aid Counselor
- Fund Raiser I/ Fund Raiser II
- Group Worker
- Health Care Facility Administrator
- High School Teacher
- Human Resource Advisor
- Information Specialist
- Job Analyst
- Labor Relations Manager
- Loan Officer
- Management Analyst
- Market Research Analyst
- Mental Retardation Aide
- News Writer
- Nurse
- Occupational Analyst
- Patient Resources and Reimbursement Agt.
- Police Officer
- Polygraph Examiner
- Preschool Teacher
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Psychiatric Aide/Attendant
- Psychiatric Technician
- Public Health Director
- Public Relations Representative
- Purchasing Agent
- Real Estate Agent
- Recreation Leader
- Recreation Supervisor
- Recreational Therapist
- Research Assistant
- Retail Salesperson
- Social Group Worker
- Social Services Aide
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Systems Analyst
- Teacher for the Emotionally Impaired
- Teacher for the Hearing Impaired
- Teacher for the Learning Disable
- Teacher for the Mentally Impaired
- Teacher for the Visually Impaired
- Technical Writer
- Veterans Contact Representative
- Vocational Training Teacher
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Writer

**Graduate Degree needed**

- Academic Counselor
- Art Therapist
- Chief Psychologist
- Child Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- College/University Professor
- Comparative Psychologist
- Counseling Psychologist
- Developmental Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Engineering Psychologist
- Experimental Psychologist
- Family Counselor/Caseworker
- Guidance Counselor
- Industrial/Organizational Psychologist
- Lawyer
- Marriage and Family Counselor
- Medical Social Worker
- Military Psychologist
- Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Chaplain, etc.
- Music Therapist
- Neurologist
- Neuropathologist
- Neurosurgeon
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Pediatrician
- Penologist
- Personnel Psychologist
- Pharmacologist
- Psychiatrist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Psychiatrist
- Psychological Anthropologist
- Psychometrist
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Social Group Worker
- Social Psychologist
- Speech Pathologist
- Therapist for the Blind
- Veterans Contact Representative
- Veterinarian
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor