What can I do with a degree in... **PSYCHOLOGY?**

Why study **PSYCHOLOGY?**

A Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology (B.S.) provides students with the first level of education required to pursue careers in more specialized fields. Students deciding to major in other areas find that a minor in psychology can be very helpful.

Students in the Psychology major have the opportunity to connect one-on-one with expert faculty members in a variety of psychological fields. The undergraduate Psychology major also allows students opportunities for independent studies and research projects, many of which end up being presented at professional conferences. Additionally, students have the unique opportunity to engage in service learning and field-based internship experiences to integrate course knowledge with practical experiences outside of the classroom.

What is the **DEGREE OPTION?**

Bachelor of Science in Psychology
NOTE: Students may also minor in Psychology. WCU also offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Clinical Psychology, a Master of Arts (M.A.) in General Psychology, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Arts in Education (M.A.Ed.) in School Counseling, and a Specialist School Psychology (S.S.P.) degree.

What is the **UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Any currently enrolled student at WCU may declare Psychology as an undergraduate major. Please make an appointment with your advisor via your MyWCU student portal.

What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals in a variety of fields including advertising professionals, market researchers, counseling psychologists, occupational psychologists, educational psychologists, psychiatrics, psychotherapists, career counselors, mental health counselors, forensic psychologists, sport and exercise psychologists, community service managers, public relations professionals, social services specialists, human resource professionals, higher education student affairs professionals, corrections officers, educators, writers, and more.

NOTE: Advanced degrees may be required for some of the above careers. Please speak with an advisor or career counselor for more information.

Who employs **PSYCHOLOGY** graduates?

Our graduates work for a variety of employers including private counseling practices, non-profit organizations, educational insitutions, government agencies, human resource departments, hospitals and health organizations, law enforcement agencies, and more.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR
EXCEL IN ACADEMICS	Coursework your first year will focus on entry-level Psychology courses as well as classes in the liberal studies catalog. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.	The second year continues with liberal studies requirements, as well as Pyschology and minor electives. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.
GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	Check out **WCU's DegreePlus program** and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness. See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to **JobCat 2.0.** Employment with BaseCamp Cullowhee would be a great option.	Consider joining clubs or organizations on campus and become involved in leadership positions such as Psi Chi and Psychology Club. If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions. Engage deeper with **DegreePlus;** choose an additional competency to complete.
BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY	Connect with the **Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning** and ask about the **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage and recognize students who are connected with their community.	Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume. If you want to **study abroad,** this is a good year to have that experience. The Study Abroad Office has excellent suggestions on places to go to your major specifically.
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE	Further explore your career options or career interests using the **Center for Career and Professional Development's** online resources, **Focus 2,** and **Onet Online.** Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.	Attend the **CCPD Career Fairs** to identify summer, part-time, or internship opportunities for additional hands-on opportunities. Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years; label your spreadsheet with each school's admission requirements and application materials so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Anthropology
Cherokee Studies
Communication
Criminal Justice
English
History
International Studies
Leadership
Marketing
Sociology

3rd YEAR	4th YEAR
Courses in your third year will focus heavily on upper-level Psychology courses and electives within the major. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.	Courses in your third year will focus heavily on upper-level Psychology courses and electives within the major. Check out the **8-semester plan,** make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and **apply for graduation!**
Complete an internship that will give you practical hands-on experience in your field. Contact the CCPD for help in your internship search. Contact faculty members for research assistant positions and assist faculty and graduate students with research data collections. Apply for the **LEARN** or **SURP programs** and conduct your own research.	Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or graduate school admissions. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.
Volunteer with nonprofits that focus on your ideal career path. Connect with alumni in your field through **LinkedIn** Consider networking with professionals in your field. **The American Psychological Association** has numerous networking events and professional development opportunities listed.	Join professional organizations such as the **Mental Health Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychotherapy Association,** and tons more. Network with employers and non-profits at the Fall or Spring CCPD career fairs.
Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter (Make an appointment through MyWCU) Utilize the **Writing and Learning Commons** for GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Take the GRE, etc. Use **Big Interview** to learn more about professional interviews. Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.	Apply to graduate schools, if applicable. Look for and **apply for jobs** between 4 and 6 months before graduation. Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

There are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic adviser the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH Information

The Psychology department at WCU offers independent study courses (PSY 280/480) for majors to engage in undergraduate research. Students interested in graduate school in Psychology would greatly benefit from this experience. Interested students will identify faculty research of interest and discuss this opportunity directly with the faculty member. Student research has been featured at research conferences ranging from institutional to international organizations.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- curiosity and creativity
- oral and written communication
- statistical awareness
- data analysis and interpretation
- critical evaluation
- research skills
- problem solving
- decision-making

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, interpretation, and presentation of findings.
- Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
- Weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect human values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.

Professional **RESOURCES**

- American Psychological Association: apa.org
- Association for Psychological Science: psychologicalscience.org
- National Academy of Neuropsychology: nanonline.org
- National Association of School Psychologists: nasponline.org
- North Carolina School Psychology Association: ncspaonline.com
- International Council of Psychologists: icpweb.org
- Society for General Psychology: apadivisions.org
- Southeastern Psychological Association: sepaonline.com

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Psychology program at 828-227-7361 or visit psychology.wcu.edu.

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.

Western Carolina University