School of Psychology

Undergraduate Student Handbook

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Version 3.0

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Introduction

The purpose for this handbook is to serve as a reference guide for undergraduate psychology majors. The following pages will provide you with information on many of the opportunities available in the School of Psychology. You are encouraged to become involved in the activities that are offered and to get to know the faculty, graduate students and staff. Whether you plan on attending graduate school or head straight into the workforce after graduation, you will be well served by fully experiencing all that the School of Psychology has to offer.

For more information please visit the Georgia Tech website at www.psychology.gatech.edu.

Specialties in the School of Psychology

Faculty within the School of Psychology have expertise in the following areas:

Engineering Psychology - An applied branch of psychology concerned with the abilities and limitations of humans to sense, store, and process information, and to act. This knowledge is applied to the design, use, and maintenance of human-machine systems.

Cognition and Brain Science - This branch of psychology entails the measurement of cognition and related mechanisms, including (but not limited to) attention, sensation and perception, working memory, episodic memory, cognitive control, language, metacognition, spatial cognition, and problem solving.

Cognitive Psychology - This branch of psychology is concerned with how humans acquire information, retain information in memory, and use this information to reason and solve problems.

Cognitive Aging - Cognitive Aging involves the scientific study of cognitive processes at varying levels of the adult life span

Industrial/Organizational Psychology - This branch of psychology is concerned with the application, extension, and development of psychological principles, data, and methodology for the description of behavior in environments created by manufacturing, commercial, industrial, governmental, and other work-oriented organizations

Quantitative Psychology – This branch of psychology is concerned with interfacing psychological issues with quantitative methods. The program has a broad scope in covering model-based methods in measurement, statistics and methodology. Currently it has a strong emphasis on item response theory, structural equation modeling and factor analysis.

A listing of faculty and their areas of expertise may be found at:

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/people/faculty.php

Academic Requirements & Procedures

Minimum requirements

The minimum GPA required to graduate with an undergraduate degree is 2.0.

In order to graduate you must complete a minimum of 122 hours of coursework. Some of this coursework must come from specific classes required by Georgia Tech or The School of Psychology. You must earn a grade of "C" or better for Psychology courses to count towards the credit requirements. Many of the classes that are required have prerequisites that must be satisfied before you will be allowed to register for them.

General Checklist:

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/resources/Forms/Checklist%202007-present.pdf

International Plan:

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/resources/Forms/International%20Plan_2007-2008.pdf

Psych degree/minor/etc requirements:

http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/colleges/cos/psyc/ugrad/bspsyc/geninfo.php

Pre-health page:

http://www.prehealth.gatech.edu/

Advisement & Registration

Advisement meetings

You are encouraged to meet with the undergraduate coordinator or any faculty member at any time. All faculty members will be happy to discuss any academic issue that you may have. They will also be happy to talk with you about your future plans in the field of psychology. However, please remember that faculty members, just like students, are very busy people. If you would like to meet with a faculty member it is usually best to make an appointment. And once you make that appointment, remember to keep it.

Typically undergraduate students meet with the undergraduate coordinator once a semester for registration. You will be informed of the meeting time via e-mail. The meeting usually lasts one hour. The purpose of the meeting is to plan out the courses that you will be taking the following semester. You should have some idea about the courses and the section in which you want to enroll. You should plan your schedule so that it best fits with your other activities **before** the meeting. **It is recommended that you plan your schedule for each of your remaining years at Georgia Tech.** The checklist found in this handbook above and on the web can be used to determine when each of the required and elective psychology courses will be offered. Do not plan on the courses being offered during any semester other than the one designated on the checklist.

Registration Procedure within the School of Psychology

1. Obtain checklist from web site,

    http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/resources/Forms/Checklist%202007-present.pdf

2. Select the courses that you need based on the checklist. **Prerequisites for classes MUST be fulfilled before taking the class and all laboratory courses and 3000 level courses must be taken at Georgia Tech.**

3. Obtain any forms for special topics, independent study, special problems and/or senior thesis. Complete these forms and **have them signed by the faculty member who will be supervising these activities.**

4. During the meeting you will be asked to fill out the pre-registration card that you will need to turn in to the academic advisor, Jan Westbrook, in Room 152 of J.S. Coon.

5. By the following day your departmental registration holds will be removed. Any other holds will have to be removed by the office who placed them on your record. If your holds are not removed you will not be able to register.

6. Complete the remaining registration procedure based on the Registrar's instructions found at https://oscar.gatech.edu/

7. If you have any problems with registration, contact the academic advisor or the undergraduate coordinator.

Transferring Courses and Credits

http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/students/transfercredit.php

Policies for transfer credit:

1. Transfer credit will not be granted for required psychology courses.

2. You must earn/have earned at least a C for any credit to be considered for transfer into Georgia Tech

3. The final 36 credit hours required for the degree must be taken at Georgia Tech

Procedure:

If you are considering enrolling in a course at another college or university for which you would like to have the credit transferred and that course is specifically named and numbered on the checklist, then you must:

A. You should check the registrar's web site to determine if the course has been identified as a transferable course by number. If the course is transferable by number then after you have completed the course go to step B below.

   If it is not on the list by number then consult with the corresponding department at Tech to determine if the course can be transfer as numbered.

   You will need to obtain a current course syllabus from the college or university where you are planning on taking the courses. You should obtain a letter or email from the person at Tech with whom you interact stating that the course will transfer as the Tech numbered course.

B. After completing the course have the official transcript sent to the registrar's office and obtain an unofficial copy of the transcript.

C. Go to the department or school at Tech for which transfer credit is desired and request the transfer credit. That department will fill out a non resident credit report form and submit it to the registrar's office. Check with the registrar's office to see if credit for that course was granted (granting credit can take as long as two months).

   If you are considering enrolling in a course at another college or university for which you would like to have the credit transferred and that course is not named and numbered on the checklist, then you must complete steps B and C above.

Changing Major

Transferring into the School of Psychology

1. In order to transfer into the School you must have a 2.0 GPA. If you have more than 90 credit hours and you have not taken Psyc 2020 then you should plan on at least 2 more years to complete your degree.
2. Obtain a change of major form from the registrar's office.
3. Complete the change of major form.
4. Have the undergraduate coordinator from your current school or department sign and date the form.
5. Have the undergraduate coordinator in the School of Psychology sign and date the form.
6. Take the completed form to the registrar's office
7. Your email address will be placed on the School of Psychology's mailing list.
8. You should receive an email within 24 hours welcoming you to the school and informing you of your advisor. If you do not receive this email contact the Undergraduate coordinator.

Transferring out of the School of Psychology

1. Obtain a change of major form from the registrar's office.
2. Complete the change of major form.
3. Have the undergraduate coordinator in the School of Psychology sign and date the form.
4. Have the undergraduate coordinator in your new school sign and date the form.
5. Take the completed form to the registrar's office.

Graduation

http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/students/deginfo/oag.php

Petition to graduate - http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/docs/pdf/oaghta.pdf

Prior to your last semester at Georgia Tech, you will be required to complete a petition to graduate. The date to submit this petition can be obtained from the registrar's office or web site (http://www.registrar.gatech.edu). This date is very early, normally the last day of registration for the **previous** semester. The petition form can be obtained from the registrar's office.

After completing the petition to graduate, schedule an appointment with the undergraduate coordinator. You will be required to complete an Exit Survey for the School of Psychology. The purpose for this survey is to afford you the opportunity to evaluate your undergraduate experience in the School of Psychology and for the School to evaluate the program. After completing the exit survey, remove the last page of the survey, place it in an envelope and return the envelope to the academic advisor in the main office of the School of Psychology. Return the rest of the Exit Survey to the undergraduate coordinator. At that time the undergraduate coordinator will sign your Petition to Graduate. Finally, submit your petition, your completed checklist to the Registrar's office.

The registrar's office will review the petition and if there are no deficiencies certify you for graduation. You will be notified by email of any deficiencies.

Honor cords

Georgia Tech does not provide cords, sashes, or stoles to designate honor graduates at Commencement. However, graduates are permitted to wear honors cords, sashes, or stoles that are given by officially sanctioned Georgia Tech student organizations (such as Psi Chi). You are responsible for obtaining from the student organization any honors accessories to which you are entitled.

Academic Honors (Awarded each semester)

Deans List

Undergraduate degree-seeking students are eligible for Deans List for the term, if the following conditions are met:

• An academic standing of GOOD

• No Incomplete (I) grades

• At least 12 hours of course work on a letter grade basis

• Academic average of 3.00 or higher

Faculty Honors

Undergraduate degree-seeking students are eligible for Faculty Honors for the term, if the following conditions are met:

• An academic standing of GOOD

• No Incomplete(I) or Withdrawal (W) grades

• At least 12 hours of course work on a letter grade basis

• Academic average of 4.00

Graduation with Academic Distinction

For graduation with highest honor, the minimum scholastic average shall be 3.55.

For graduation with high honor, the minimum scholastic average shall be 3.35.

For graduation with honor, the minimum scholastic average shall be 3.15.

A student must have earned at least 60 semester credit hours (excluding remedial course work) at Georgia Tech to graduate with highest honor, with high honor, or with honor.

In order to qualify for graduation with honors, all grades or grade corrections affecting the honors designation must be received and certified by the Registrar no later than noon on Wednesday following the commencement

Opportunities and Resources within the School of Psychology

Colloquia

A Colloquium (singular form of Colloquia) is defined as an academic seminar on a broad field of study, usually led by a different lecturer at each meeting. The psychology department holds colloquia about twice a month. Colloquia are open to the public and all psychology majors are encouraged to attend. Complimentary refreshments are served during the reception following each colloquium. For a schedule of speakers please refer to the links below.

School of Psychology Colloquia

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/home/colloquia.html

Engineering Psychology Colloquia

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/engpsy/talks.html

Brown Bags

Brown bags are informal gatherings of faculty and students to discuss current psychology related research. Generally one graduate student or faculty member will present a forty–five minute talk on their current research, and then 15 minutes is reserved for group discussion. Undergraduates are encouraged to attend and to bring a meal or snack. A schedule of brown bag times and speakers can be found using the links below, or by asking at the front desk in the Psychology main office.

School of Psychology Cognitive Aging Brown Bag Series:

http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/home/brownbags.html#Cogaging

The Graphics Visualization & Usability (GVU) Brown Bag Series:

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/events/brownbags/index.html - only one that still works

Psychology Club

The Psychology Club provides an opportunity for psychology undergraduates and other GT students interested in psychology to go beyond the lecture hall and see psychology in the "real world." Our purpose is to supply information, opportunities and resources to our members that will enhance their academic career. We help members prepare for graduate school admission or the work force in a variety of ways. We work to provide opportunities in volunteer work, research with faculty, informational meetings and discussions and social events. Through these, we strive to introduce our members and interested persons to the broad variety of disciplines in psychology as a science.

Past psychology club activities include:

· Raising money for and participating in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk

· Touring the Georgia Tech Aware Home (http://awarehome.imtc.gatech.edu/)

· Hosting guest speakers from different areas of psychology

To become a member:

1. Email gtpsychclub@gmail.com to be added to the psych-general list.
2. Go to the Psych Club meetings
3. Pay your dues ($15/year) to the treasurer.

 For more information, visit: http://gtpsychologyclub.wordpress.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/GTPsychClub

If you have any questions, send them to: gtpsychclub@gmail.com

Psi Chi

"Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate men and women who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests, and who meet the minimum qualifications. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychological Society (APS)."

Eligibility for **membership** includes:

· Completion of 3 semesters or 5 quarters of the college course

· Completion of 9 semester hours or 14 quarter hours of psychology courses

· Ranking in the top 35% of their class in general scholarship

· Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in both psychology classes and in cumulative grades

More information about Psi Chi can be found at:
http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/psychclub/PsiChi/

psichi.org

Research Opportunities

There are many research opportunities offered within the School of Psychology and at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Some of these opportunities may be paid while others can be for course credit. Undergraduates are encouraged to participate in these opportunities. The single best way to find out about research opportunities is to talk with various professors within the School of Psychology or with the undergraduate coordinator. Additional information on research opportunities within the School of Psychology can be found at
http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/research/researchoverview.php

Information on Institute-wide research opportunities can be found at
http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/research_opportunities.php

Extra Credit/Experiment Sign-Up

Many professors offer extra credit opportunities for students wishing to participate in departmental research. Other extra-credit opportunities, such as turning in papers in addition to those assigned in class, are also available. The department of psychology uses Sona, a web-based experiment scheduling and tracking system, to assist experimenters and students in scheduling participation times. To sign up for an experiment go to https://gatech-psych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/ and log in or click on new participant to make an account.

Main Office

There are many resources in the main office available to undergraduate students. Copy machines are available for psychology class related activities as well as for other School of Psychology activities. Additionally a fax machine, a scanner, and software with the capability to create .PDF files and other office supplies are also available for limited use. Please see the front desk attendant for assistance.

Senior Thesis

The senior thesis is an opportunity for students to conduct research in an area of their choosing under the guidance of a faculty member. The senior thesis requires a special problems course to be taken the semester prior to enrolling in the Senior Thesis Course. A research proposal should be the outcome of the special topics course. Likewise it is highly recommended that all computer programs, IRB approval and analysis programs should be completed by the end of the special topics course. The activity during the Senior Thesis Course should be the collection and analysis of data and a write-up of the experiment(s). Because of space and time limitations not all students will be able to enroll in the senior thesis option. More information on the Senior Thesis is available at
http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/undergraduate/research/seniorthesis.php

Graduate School & Career Information

Preparing For Graduate School in Psychology

The information in this section is primarily for those students planning to pursue an advanced degree in psychology. However, the courses and experiences that prepare you for graduate study in psychology also prepare you for employment immediately after graduation and for graduate study in disciplines other than psychology.

There are four important considerations when contemplating admission to graduate school: 1) Grades, 2) GRE scores, 3) Letters of recommendations, and 4) Research experience and/or publication. Different graduate schools weigh each of these factors differently. Obviously you want your application to be strong in each of these areas.

Grades

The grade point average for admission to graduate school depends on the area of study and the quality of school (e.g. clinical gets more applications; thus, the competition is greater and a higher GPA is necessary). Generally a GPA above 3.2 is required for most Ph.D. programs.

Graduate Record Exam

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (www.gre.org) is composed of two major parts, an aptitude test and an advanced subject section. A competitive score is at least 600 per section. The aptitude test is similar to the SAT or the ACT you took in order to obtain undergraduate admission, though it is a computer based test. Computer based testing is different from paper based testing in that the computer adapts to each question answered. For instance, if you miss the first question on the GRE the computer automatically selects an easier second question. This allows for the test to get at your true ability in a shorter amount of time than traditional pencil and paper exams. In fact, the verbal section is only 30 minutes long, the quantitative section is 45 minutes and both analytical writing sections combined are 1 hour and 15 minutes. The three sections of the aptitude test are described below.

Analytical Writing

- articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively
- examine claims and accompanying evidence
- support ideas with relevant reasons and examples
- sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion
- control the elements of standard written English (plays a role only to the extent that poor writing skills impede readers' understanding of the argument)

Verbal

- analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it
- analyze relationships among component parts of sentences
- recognize relationships between words and concepts

Quantitative

- understand basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis
- reason quantitatively
- solve problems in a quantitative setting

If you are applying for graduate school in December/January, the **last** time that you can take the GRE and have scores sent is October. If the test is taken later, extra fees must be paid to rush scores to schools.

GRE Advanced Subject Section

The advanced subject section is a test taken in your major field. The GRE in psychology consists of about 210 multiple-choice questions. Each question in the test has five options from which the examinee is to select the one option that is the correct or best answer to the question. Some of the stimulus materials, such as a description of an experiment or a graph, may serve as the basis for several questions.

The questions in the Psychology Test are drawn from courses of study most commonly offered at the undergraduate level within the broadly defined field of psychology. Questions may require recalling factual information, analyzing relationships, applying principles, drawing conclusions from data, evaluating a research design, and/or identifying a psychologist who has made a theoretical or research contribution to the field.

The Psychology Test yields two subscores in addition to the total score. Although the test offers only two subscores, there are questions in three content categories:

· Experimental or natural science oriented (about 40 percent of the questions), including learning, language, memory, thinking, sensation and perception, physiological psychology, ethology, and comparative psychology. They contribute to the experimental psychology subscore and the total score.

· Social or social science oriented (about 43 percent of the questions). These questions are distributed among the fields of clinical and abnormal, developmental, personality, and social psychology. They contribute to the social psychology subscore and the total score.

· General (about 17 percent of the questions), including the history of psychology, applied psychology, measurement, research designs, and statistics. They contribute to the total score only.

Letters of Recommendation

In general, the best letters of recommendation are from people who:

· Have a positive opinion of you and your abilities

· Have worked with you closely (e.g., a research supervisor)

· Have known you long enough to write with authority (e.g., academic advisor)

· Have relevant expertise (e.g., professors in the case of academic applications)

· Have a warm and supportive personal style

· Are senior and well known (e.g., a departmental chair)

Because the choice of letter writers is important, it is best to begin cultivating personal relationships with potential writers early on. Also, if you're not sure whether prospective letter writers have enough experience with you or have a positive enough impression to write a good letter, there's nothing wrong with asking them whether they would be able to write a strong letter. After all, if you're going to compete with people who have uniformly glowing letters of recommendation, a mildly positive letter from someone who doesn't really know you can actually do more harm than good.

Another issue is whether letter writers should attempt to address weaknesses in your application. For example, if you received a low Quantitative GRE score due to a family crisis immediately before the test date, your letter writer might mention this and argue that the "A" you received in Statistics is a better measure of your quantitative skill. This strategy can be very helpful in some situations, but it is also a double-edged sword that can draw attention to weaknesses in your application. Thus, you should discuss the pro's and con's of this approach with your letter writer before adopting such a strategy -- each situation is unique, and there is no single best way to proceed.

Once you have 3-4 letter writers and a game plan for what you'd like the letters to say, there are two more things you can do to increase your chances of success:

1. **Give your writers plenty of time** so they aren't forced to slap together a quick letter or miss any application deadlines. A minimum of three or four weeks is customary and will allow you to check back a few days before the deadline to ensure that the letter has been sent or faxed.

2. **Give your writers a well-organized, thorough packet of materials** with all the elements clipped together or contained in a single large envelope. Ideally, these elements should include:

3. A current copy of your academic transcript showing the courses you've taken and the level at which you've performed. This does not have to be an official copy; a photocopy of your record is fine.

4. A copy of your academic vita or résumé (for information on how to create an academic vita, click http://www.socialpsychology.org/vitatips.htm

5. A pre-addressed, Georgia Tech, School of Psychology envelope for each letter -- regardless of whether the letter is being sent through campus mail or the postal mail -- with postage affixed if the letter is being sent via postal mail. If there are graduate school letters that should be returned to you in a sealed envelope, be sure to write your name and the school's name on the outside of each envelope.

6. Any forms that are supposed to be submitted with the letter. If there is a form that goes with the letter, complete as much information as possible. Type in the recommender's name, the person's title (e.g., Associate Professor), and the person's contact information (e.g., telephone number, fax number, street address). That way, your letter writer can focus strictly on the recommendation itself. If you are asked to indicate whether or not you waive access to the letter of recommendation, be sure to answer affirmatively (that you do waive the right). Answering otherwise gives the appearance of not trusting your letter writer, and it dilutes the effectiveness of the letter.

7. NOTE: Increasingly, graduate schools prefer recommendations to be submitted online, so double check with your program before submitting hardcopies

8. A cover note briefly listing:

   ● Your contact information in case the letter writer needs to reach you
   ● The deadline for each letter you need
   ● Your career aspirations and the type of position you're applying for along with the specific name of the program (i.e., Cognitive Neuroscience, Engineering)
   ● Information you would like emphasized in the letter
   ● Any other information you deem relevant

By adhering to these general guidelines, you will increase the chances of getting good letters of recommendation and ultimately securing the position you seek.

Grad School Links

The following links are helpful in answering some of the questions you may have about applying to graduate school.

http://www.apa.org/ed/getin.html

http://www.gradschools.com/psychologysearch.html

http://www.psywww.com/careers/time-grd.htm

http://www.gre.org/

Careers in Psychology

Psychology provides an excellent preparation for graduate school in psychology, medical school, law school, and other professional and academic graduate programs. In addition, many students with the BS degree in psychology choose to enter a variety of fields, including computer software design, human resources, marketing, human factors, system design, personnel selection and training, and management.

Nature of Work and Working Conditions

Psychologists collect, interpret and apply scientific information related to human mind and human behavior. They usually focus on understanding the way people think, feel and behave in order to help them their actions or reduce the level of stress. There are many more fields not included and many that are in the process of appearing. However, psychologists usually specialize in one of the following areas of study:

- ➔ *Behavioral Psychology*
  Studies ways to modify human behavior.
- ➔ *Clinical Psychology*
  Focuses on diagnosing mental and emotional disorders of patients and developing programs to treat such disorders.
- ➔ *Counseling Psychology*
  Helps people who are not mentally or emotionally ill, but who suffer from anxiety or depression, cope with their daily lives.
- ➔ *Educational Psychology*
  Focuses on learning and teaching processes to foster intellectual, social and emotional development.
- ➔ *Engineering Psychology*
  Concerned with human limitations and capabilities that can be applied to the design of things that people use.
- ➔ *Experimental Psychology*
  Measures and studies human and animal behavioral patterns in laboratory settings.
- ➔ *Forensic Psychology*
  Evaluates the state of mind of individuals involved in legal matters.
- ➔ *Industrial-Organizational Psychology*
  Studies the issues related to managing, training and counseling personnel.
- ➔ *Neuropsychology*
  studies the structure and function of the brain as they relate to specific psychological processes and behaviors.

➔ *Cognitive Neuroscience*
  academic field concerned with the scientific study of biological substrates underlying cognition, with a specific focus on the neural substrates of mental processes.
➔ *Rehabilitation Psychology*
  Helps people with physical and emotional disabilities re-enter the labor force.
➔ *School Psychology*
  Helps students and parents overcome conflicts and make learning easier.
➔ *Social Psychology*
  Focuses on understanding the behavior of individuals and groups of people.

Psychologists usually find employment in universities, hospitals, schools, industries, correctional facilities, government agencies, counseling centers, research organizations and private practices. They may work different hours depending on the employer. In high schools, hospitals and government agencies the hours are usually specified. Those who are self-employed or work for universities have to be more flexible and sometimes work during the evenings and weekends. Teaching positions may require dividing time between teaching, research and administrative responsibilities. Most of the applied or clinical psychologists have to deal with tremendous stress from dealing with client's emotions, mood swings or tensions and still remain objective. As part of continuous education and staying abreast of recent developments in the field, a lot of psychologists frequently travel to professional conferences and training sessions. For consultants and sales representatives, traveling can become quite extensive.

Career Services

http://www.career.gatech.edu/

Whether you're in need of help with perfecting your Vita for graduate school admission, or you need help with a resume for an internship, the career services office can help.

Employment Outlook

According to the data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor Psychologists (http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Life-Physical-and-Social-Science/Psychologists.htm) held about 174,00 jobs in 2010. The employment of psychology professionals is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2020. New jobs will account for most of employment opportunities, but some positions will be created as psychologists in colleges and universities leave the work force due to reaching the retirement age.

The majority of new opportunities will be created in schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, research firms, computer manufacturing companies and management consulting services. These companies will increase the use of psychologists in performing survey designs, research testing, program evaluation and employee assistance programs. Health care industry will also continue to offer opportunities for psychologists. Opportunities for those holding Ph.D. degrees will be most plentiful.

Training, Career Advancement and Professional Certification

Employment opportunities for students with a bachelor's degree are very limited and do not offer good advancement. Some students use their degrees in psychology and find jobs in related occupations, such as marketing, administrative support, public affairs, business, sales and others. Those who prefer to stay in the field may work as assistants in the rehabilitation centers, probation officers, and personnel analysts or teach psychology in high school if the State certification requirements are met.

Psychologists with Masters degrees usually handle research and data collection and analysis in universities, government and private companies. Others may find employment in health industries and community mental health centers. Both Masters and Ph.D. degree holders can occupy some jobs in the industry and government. Masters degree holders usually work under the supervision of a Ph.D. psychologist.

A Ph.D. degree is required for some of the positions in the hospitals, most college level institutions and government agencies. In addition to that most hospital employers require a completion of an approved internship. The public school system requires psychologists to hold pupil personnel services credential with specialized advanced training in psychology.

Clinical psychologists who work in public sector or in private practice must have a Ph.D. and be licensed by the Board of Psychology. They must also have advanced training in child abuse, human sexuality and drug or alcohol abuse. Some states require continuous education classes for license renewal.

Salary Statistics

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage of psychologists was $68,640 in May 2010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $39,200, and the top 10 percent earned more than $111,810.

The median annual wages of psychologist occupations in May 2010 were the following:

- **$87,330 for industrial-organizational psychologists**
- **$66,810 for clinical, counseling, and school psychologists**
- **$89,900 for psychologists, all other**

Professional Organizations

American Counseling Association - http://www.counseling.org

American Psychological Association – http://www.apa.org

American Psychological Association of Graduate Students - http://www.apa.org/apags

American Psychological Society - http://www.psychologicalscience.org

American School Counselor Association - http://www.schoolcounselor.org

Cognitive Neuroscience Society - http://www.cogneurosociety.org

Georgia Association of School Psychologists - http://www.gaspnet.org

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society - http://www.hfes.org

National Association of School Psychologists - http://www.nasponline.org/index2.html

National Education Association - http://www.nea.org

Psychonomic Society - http://www.psychonomic.org

Sigma Xi - http://www.sigmaxi.org

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology - http://www.siop.org

Society for Psychophysical Research - http://sprweb.org

Career Planning Resources

1. Career network of the Chronicle for Higher Education: http://chronicle.com/jobs/
2. Employment ads from the American Psychological Society: http://www.psychologicalscience.org/jobs/
3. Job listings from the Federal Government: http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a.htm
4. Job postings from the Social Psychology Network: http://www.socialpsychology.org/forums/jobforum.htm
5. Psychiatric and psychological job listings: http://www.psychwatch.com/job_page.htm
6. Jobs listings from Nature Jobs: http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/
7. School psychology job center: http://www.schoolpsychology.net/p_jobs.html
8. Clinical research jobs: http://www.clinicalresearchjobs.com/hb_cfmfiles/jobs/clinrjobsearch.cfm
9. Internships in the field of psychology: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/5353/classes/intern.html
10. International jobs for psychology professionals and students: http://www.a2zpsychology.com
11. General sources, such as: www.monstertrak.com, www.careerbuilder.com, www.usajobs.opm.gov, www.federaljobsearch.com

Faculty & Staff

Faculty - *http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/people/faculty.php*

Lecturers - http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/people/instructors.php

Staff - *http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/people/staff.php*

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Notes

The format and some content of this handbook are based on the University of South Carolina's psychology undergraduate handbook (1998-1999 version). Much of the information contained in this handbook was taken from the various websites referenced