Potential Careers

NMU's Psychology-Graduate School Preparation Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

- Administrative Assistant
- Clinical Psychologist
- Counseling Psychologist
- Developmental Psychologist
- Guidance Counselor
- Industrial-Organizational Psychologist
- Marketing Researcher
- Mental Health Worker
- School Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Vocational Rehabilitation Officer

What To Do With a Major In...

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Psychology Department
346 Gries
906-227-2935
www.nmu.edu/psychology

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Student Psychological Association

Internet Resource Links:
- www.careers.org
- www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
- www.apa.org American Psychological Association
- www.nasponline.org National Association of School Psychologists

Current as of Fall 2015

Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Northern Michigan University
Psychology Graduate School Preparation

Are you interested in furthering your Psychology background beyond a Bachelor Degree? Would you like to use your knowledge of the human psyche in the classroom or research lab? Do you enjoy helping others work through problems? Would you like to work with children? The Psychology Department has a major that will prepare you with all the necessary requirements for a Psychology Graduate Program.

Northern Michigan University’s Psychology Graduate School Preparation is designed for students who wish to enter advanced degree programs in Psychology with the goal of university teaching or research, or of becoming involved in human services delivery as clinical or counseling psychologists.

Once an advanced degree is earned, opportunities such as teaching and/or researching at the university level and clinical practices are quite feasible. One area in Psychology that is growing quickly is in elementary and secondary schools. Many school districts are finding that staff members with strong psychology backgrounds are dramatically helping students with psychological, social, developmental and learning problems.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core
PY 100 Psychology as a Social/Natural Science (4 cr.)
PY 205 Intro to Research Method in Psychology (4 cr.)
PY 305 Psychological Statistics (4 cr.)
PY 400 History and Systems (4 cr.)

Physiological Course
PY 204 Physiological Psychology (4 cr.) or
PY 303 Human Neuropsychology (4 cr.)

Learning Course
PY 203 Applied Behavior Analysis (4 cr.) or
PY 211 Learning (4 cr.) or
PY 311 Thinking and Cognition (4 cr.)

Social/Development Course
PY 241 Child Psychology (4 cr.) or
PY 302 Causes and Control of Aggression (4 cr.) or
PY 304 Animal Behavior (4 cr.) or
PY 335 Social Psychology (4 cr.)

Advanced Lab Course
PY 404 Advanced Physiological Psychology (4 cr.) or
PY 410 Sensation and Perception (4 cr.) or
PY 411 Advanced Learning (4 cr.) or
PY 435 Advanced Social Psychology (4 cr.)

Elective Courses (12 credits)
At least 4 credits at the 400 level.
At least 4 credits at the 300 level or higher.
At least 4 credits at the 200 level or higher.

Other Required Courses
MA 104 College Algebra with Applications in the Science and Technologies (4 cr.) or
MA 103 Finite Mathematics (4 cr.) or
MA 111 College Algebra for Calculus Prep (4 cr.)

Required Minor (20 cr.)

Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for any professional. Some other valuable skills and competencies specific to a profession in the Psychology area include leadership capabilities as well as having excellent group work and team player capabilities.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

These jobs cover a broad range of areas and therefore competencies and skills acquired through academic courses, internships, extracurricular and work experience are extremely important.

Additional schooling beyond a Bachelors Degree is required for some careers. For elementary and secondary education, state certification needs to be attained (1-2 additional years). Vocational and Community College instructors usually require at least a Masters Degree (2-3 additional years). University’s professors usually have a Doctoral Degree (5-8 additional years). Remember to take any additional entrance exams early because results may take several weeks.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicant’s work experience and initiative, and usually range from $30,000 to $60,000. Overall the psychology field is expected to grow at a 15% rate, with additional job opportunities becoming available with master’s or doctorate degrees.