

## Careers in Healthcare for Psychology Majors

“The recognized impact of health psychology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is evidenced by the fact that the fastest growing place of employment for psychologists in the past decade has been hospitals” (Benjamin & Baker, 2004, p. 212).

There are many careers in Healthcare that a person majoring in Psychology can pursue. They include:

- [Geriatric Care](#)
- [Health Educator](#)
- [Health Psychologist](#)
- [Mental Health Counselor](#) (See also <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos067.htm>)
- [Pastoral Counselor](#)
- [Clinical Psychologist](#)
- [Medical Social Worker](#)
- [Psychiatric Social Worker](#)
- [Occupational Health Psychologist](#)
- [Occupational Therapist](#) (See also <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos078.htm>)
- [Occupational Therapy Assistant](#)
- [Physical Therapist](#)
- [Recreation Therapist](#) (See also <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos082.htm>)
- [Rehabilitation Counselor](#)
- [Speech-Language Pathologist](#)

Many of these professions require a graduate degree, and these graduate programs are open to Psychology majors. For example, you do not have to major in Social Work as an undergraduate to go to graduate school for the MSW (Master of Social Work) degree.

Other professions for Psychology majors that intersect with healthcare are:

- [Art Therapist](#)
- [Music Therapist](#) (See also <http://www.uwec.edu/career/Students/explore/Profiles/music%20therapist.htm>)

If you want to work with children in a healthcare setting, you should consider becoming a [Child Life Specialist](#).

Some students who major in Psychology, with a Healthcare-Science Emphasis, want to do research. Many students also minor in [Neurosciences](#) because they are excited to work on the frontier of discovery about the relation between the brain and behavior. For example, the [HealthEmotions Research Institute](#), located at UW Madison, is world famous for its innovative research on the biological bases of mental disorders.

In addition, there are many healthcare careers that would be very appropriate for Psychology majors with an interest in business and management. The healthcare industry is the largest and fastest-growing sector of the American economy and Psychology majors who enroll in the Healthcare-Business Emphasis will be well prepared for entry into these types of positions:

- [Health Information Administrator](#)
- [Health Care Facility Administrator](#)
- [Public Relations and Marketing Specialist](#)

Another entry pathway into a healthcare career through Psychology is with specialization in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. This requires at least a Masters Degree.