

PSYC 53: CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2026
Units:	2
Hours:	2 lecture per week (24 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area 7: Lifelong Learning
Transferable:	CSU
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain a variety of career options in psychology and related fields and educational requirements for those careers
- Students will develop career exploration skills

Description

This course introduces students to a wide range of career options for those pursuing a major or minor in psychology. Various types of psychology degrees, career paths, and diverse work environments will be explored. The course will also provide guidance on entry-level positions for students entering the field. Students will explore their career-related interests within psychology and related fields, and learn about the required degrees and credentials for pursuing career opportunities.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify entry-level jobs and volunteer, service learning, and internship opportunities related to the field of psychology.
- Define and explain many different degrees in psychology and the positions and careers available for each type of degree.
- Describe a variety of career options in the field of psychology and the degrees, certificates, and credentials needed for various career options.
- Understand and describe the many of the sub-disciplines within the field of psychology.
- Create a personalized education and career aspiration plan.
- Develop job search, resume building, and education planning skills.
- Deepen their understanding of advantageous skill sets for careers in psychology and deepen an understanding of their personality characteristics.
- Reflect on their personalities and goals and make connections between their interests and career options.

Course Content

- Introduction to careers in psychology
 - Overview of career options
 - Overview of degrees in psychology
 - Overview of entry-level positions in psychology
- Types of degrees and honors societies in psychology
 - Associates degree
 - Bachelors of Arts and Bachelors of Science
 - Masters-level degrees: MA, MFT, MSW, etc.
 - Doctoral degrees: PhD, PsyD, EdD
 - Honors societies: Psi Beta, Psi Chi
- Cultural competency and promoting diversity
 - Overview of how psychology can address social injustice
 - Overview of under-representation of minoritized communities in the field and its effects
 - Research on the need for culturally competent mental health workers and educators
 - Research on the benefits of diversity in the field of mental health and other careers in psychology
- Skill sets for careers in psychology
 - Overview of a variety of desired skill sets for different careers in psychology
 - Personality and skill assessments for students
- Subfields within psychology and career options within each subfield, as well as degrees and certificates needed to attain careers in various positions
 - Clinical, counseling, and social work-related fields
 - Developmental-related fields
 - Industrial-organizational and business-related fields
 - Cognitive and cognitive neuroscience-related fields
 - Legal and forensic field
 - Health psychology
 - School psychology and education-related fields
 - Experimental and quantitative psychology
 - Social psychology and social-justice related fields
 - Sports psychology
- Entry-level jobs, volunteer and service-learning opportunities, internships, undergraduate research
 - Entry-level paid jobs, such as ABA line therapist for autistic children
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Service leadership and community service opportunities
 - Internship opportunities
 - Undergraduate research opportunities
- Education plan and job search skills
 - Customized education pathway plan
 - Job search skills
 - Curriculum vitae and resume-building skills
 - Personal statements and cover letter skills
 - Preparing for a four-year university
 - Preparing for graduate school

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Quizzes
Discussion posts
Essays
Portfolios
Presentations
Writing exercises
Service leadership projects

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
Class discussion
Guided learning activities
Active learning activities
Project-based learning activities

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Kuther, Tara L., and Robert D. Morgan. Careers in Psychology Opportunities in a Changing World, 5th ed. 2020.

Kuther, Tara L.. The Psychology Major's Handbook, 6th ed. 2024.

Norris, M.E.. The Canadian Handbook for Careers in Psychological Science. 2019.

American Psychological Association. Careers in Psychology. 2011.

The texts older than five years are still relevant to the field. In addition, the Norris and APA texts are free.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. Journal articles
2. Newspaper and magazine articles

Discipline(s)

Psychology