

Newsbreak**But What Can You Do with a B.A. in Psychology?**

Fewer than half of all psychology graduates with bachelor's degrees go on to attend graduate school. What happens to them? Where do they find work? What sort of career opportunities can they expect? Relax. If this is your situation, the future looks promising, even if you're not planning on studying for a master's or doctoral degree.

Psychology majors with four-year degrees find employment in all sectors of the economy. Approximately 50 percent work for private corporations, 15 percent are employed by government agencies, 14 percent find jobs in education, 12 percent run their own businesses, and 9 percent work for charitable organizations.

Of those in the corporate sector, most are in managerial positions; the rest work in sales, human resources, training, and other staff functions.

Nearly half of the recent B.A. graduates in psychology report that their job duties are closely related to their course work. They also say that their jobs have high career potential. When employers were asked what skills and abilities they were looking for in job applicants with bachelor's degrees in psychology, they answered that they wanted people with high interpersonal skills and a strong work ethic. Specifically, they sought new college graduates who could get along with others, be a team player, and had the desire to learn new skills.

So, yes, even if you do not plan on graduate school, good jobs are out there for you, but work on your "people skills" and be willing to keep learning.

Sources: J. Kohout, A look at recent baccalaureates in psychology. *Monitor on Psychology*, January 2000, p. 13. Also R. Landrum & R. Harrold, What employees want from psychology graduates, *Teaching of Psychology*, 2003, 30, 131-133.

have a sound practical reason for their choice. They are responding to the projected demand for psychologists. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects an increase in job opportunities for psychologists in business and research, in non-profit organizations, and in computer firms.

The training requirements for a career in I-O psychology are difficult, but the rewards can be great. I-O psychologists have higher salaries than those of any other group of psychologists. In 2000 the median annual income for I-O psychologists with doctoral degrees in the United States was \$90,000. The top 10 percent reported annual incomes greater than \$180,000. At the master's level, the median salary was \$67,000, with the top 10 percent earning more than \$185,000 (Katkowski & Medsker, 2001).

In addition, the rewards for I-O psychologists of stimulating work, challenging responsibilities, and intellectual growth are notable. As Ann Howard, a past president of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, commented, it is a field in which "you can make things happen. You put in a program, and you