

Clinical Psychology

Clinical psychologists assess and treat mental illness, abnormal behavior, and psychiatric problems. They integrate the science of psychology with the treatment of complex human problems with the intention of promoting change. They often work in medical settings, private practice, or in academic positions at universities of college. Some work directly with clients.

Some of the job roles they perform include:

- Assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders
- Treatment of psychological disorders
- Offering testimony in legal settings
- Teaching
- Conducting research
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Creating and administering programs to treat and prevent social problems



Undergraduate Course recommendations:

- PY 211 Statistics
- PY 355/356 Experimental
- PY 352 Developmental Psych
- PY 358 Abnormal Psych
- PY 461 Child Psych
- PY 470 Cognitive Psych

Preparation for Graduate School:

- Research with faculty
- Clinical volunteer experiences (tutoring, mentoring, advocacy groups)
- Involvement in organizations like National Alliance on Mental Illness

Education Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (other disciplines are acceptable, but psych is encouraged)
- While some individuals find work with a master's degree, most positions require a doctoral degree in clinical psychology.
- Ph.D. in Psychology
 - Emphasis on the role of the research and science.
 - Better funding provided for graduate students
- Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology)
 - Primary focus on clinical and practitioner work (practice-oriented)
 - Typically take a year less time to complete than a Ph.D
- After completing an accredited graduate training program, prospective clinical psychologists must complete a period of supervised training and an examination.
- Specific licensure requirements vary by state.

Salary:

Median: \$73,066

- Entry level (0-5 yr) \$67,000
- Mid-Career (5-10yr) \$76,000
- Experienced (10-20yr) \$88,000
- >20 yr \$98,000

Additional Resources and Further Reading:

[Clinical Psychology is a recognized specialty in professional psychology.](#)

APA Division 12: Society of Clinical Psychology

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<http://psychology.about.com/od/psychologycareerprofiles/p/clinicalpsych.htm>