

CAREER QUICK FACTS: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Career Center

Clinical psychologists provide continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioral healthcare on the individual, group, and family levels. They may also serve other functions like consulting with agencies and communities, providing training and education, and conducting research. Some day-to-day work of clinical psychologists may include:

- Psychological assessment using interviewing, behavioral analysis, and psychological testing
- Determining proper psychological interventions
- Conducting research to contribute to theory and practice
- Supervision and training of psychology students
- Consultation with health and behavioral health professionals

Important Skills/Knowledge: Understanding of psychopathology and mental health, cognitive and behavioral assessment, research, data analysis, therapy and counseling, knowledge of legal, ethical, and regulatory issues, human development, written and verbal communication

Source: American Psychological Association

How do I become a Clinical Psychologist?

Clinical psychologists usually start by earning a bachelor's degree in psychology, though some earn other bachelor's degrees. To become a clinical psychologist, you will need to complete a doctoral degree (PhD or PsyD). Some doctoral degrees require you to first obtain a master's degree, while others may accept a bachelor's degree. Many programs will require extensive research or professional experience prior to acceptance. Doctoral programs usually take 5-7 years to complete and require a comprehensive exam as well as a dissertation. Clinical psychologists will also need to complete a one-year internship and obtain a state license.

Source: American Psychological Association

Career Outlook*

Projected Job Growth 2022-2032: 11%

- Average job growth for all occupations is 3%

Median Annual Salary: \$90,130

- Median salaries represent the exact middle point of salaries for this career (half are higher, half are lower).
- This is not an expectation for your *starting* salary. You will likely start at a lower salary and may see increases as you progress through your career.

*According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov) for all psychologists

FAQs

Do I need to be a licensed clinical psychologist in order to be a therapist?

No. You can become a therapist with a master's degree. Some potential degrees include an MA in clinical psychology, a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, or a Master of Social Work.

What is the difference between a PhD and a PsyD?

You can become a clinical psychologist with either of these degrees. Depending on the focus of the program, a PsyD generally focuses more on hands-on clinical training, while a PhD focuses more on research.



The following minors and undergraduate certificates may be helpful in pursuit of this career field.

Minors to Consider

Cognitive Science – Communication Studies
Criminal Justice Studies – Philosophy
Sociology – Women's and Gender Studies
Human Services – Personal Health and Well-Being

Certificates to Consider

Disability Studies – LGBTQ Studies
One Health – Strategic Health and Risk Communication

Courses to Consider

PSYC 3230 Psychopathology
PSYC 4800 Research
PSYC 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4210
SOCL 3710 Science of Happiness
COMM 2600 Communicating and Relationships

**Want to talk to a Clinical Psychologist?
Check out the UGA Mentor Program!**

