Majoring in Psychology

Lecture Goals
- Provide an overview of Undergraduate Psychology education
- Provide an overview of jobs available with a Bachelor’s degree in PSY
- Begin to discuss life after Bachelor’s degree

Why Major in Psychology?
- Common responses
  - __________
  - Study human behavior
  - Intro to Psychology brought material to life

Forming Career Plan
- Aligned vs. Misaligned Students (Schneider and Stevenson, 1999)
  - Aligned students
    - Ambitions match career plans
    - More likely to __________
      - Understand needed KSAOs
      - Select courses thoughtfully
      - Select clubs/activities thoughtfully
  - Misaligned students
    - __________
    - Unsure what to do
    - Limited knowledge about
      - __________
      - School’s __________
      - Helpful __________ for desired occupation
        - Future demand for people in desired occupation
- Our plan to address these issues as best we can!

Undergraduate Psychology Degrees
- Associates & Bachelors
  - Myths
    - PSYCH major always leads to __________
• PSYCH major only one that leads to careers in psychology/similar to psychology

• Most PSYCH majors __________________________________________
  • In 1994: 70% psych baccalaureates employed, 23% in Grad school
  • But, trend is changing

Undergraduate Curriculum
• Catch-22
  • “The goal of education is not to get through, but to get better.” - Author unknown

• Need a tolerance __________________________________________
  • Psychology is not about finding “the right answers”
    • vs. math, accounting, chemistry, etc.
  • Psychology is about asking questions and refining answers in quest for right answers

• Overt vs. Covert Curricula (Appleby, 2001)
  • Overt (Content, what to learn)
    • Classes, course work, etc.
  • Covert (How to learn)
    • Info management, synthesis, decision making, etc.
    • Study Skills/Strategies
    • University Learning Centers (http://www.ulc.psu.edu/studyskills/main.html)

• Perception of Psych. major as a Humanity
  • Who?
    • Public, students, and ______________________________
  • Why?
    • Shared focus on human thought, culture, ______________________________
    • Philosophy and Religion (sometimes classified as a Humanity) are antecedents of Psychology
  • But, Psychology is ________________ a Humanity
    • Scientific goals and methods
    • Psychology interested in
      • ____________________________ processes
      • Non-humans
    • How should it be categorized??
• Major not a true ________________________________
  • Both share interest in societies, groups, social influence, social identity, social power, etc.

• But, Psych also includes
  • Brain processes
    • ________________________________
  • Individual differences: Personality/the mind
  • Controlled ________________________________ to study causes

• Major not a true ________________________________
  • Both share interest in
    • Biological and ________________________________ foundations of behavior and thought
      • Sensation and Perception, Biopsychology, Clinical psychology
  • Both humans and non-humans
  • Experimental methods

• But, Psychology also includes
  • Personality
  • Thinking/the ________________________________
  • ________________________________ influences, groups, etc.

  • Measuring ________________________________ (abstract concepts)
    • Love, attention, intelligence, creativity, anxiety

**Psychology is Unique**
• Combination of things makes it unique
  • It is a science
    • Study of human and ________________________________ behavior.
    • Studies brain, ________________________________ /identity, social/group phenomena AND how these interact
    • Develops real-world ________________________________ /interventions
    • Uses science to ________________________________ the effectiveness of applications/interventions
Benefits of Varied Curriculum

- When economy poor, those with PSYCH degree have

- Connections to many other disciplines/majors
  - Religion, Philosophy, Education, HR, Criminology
  - BBH, Sociology, Education, HDFS, Health Policy and Admin, Kinesiology, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Crime, Law & Justice, Rehabilitation Science, Workforce Education

- Connections to many non-psych.
  - Physical therapy
  - Occupational therapy
  - Police science
  - Human resources
  - Speech therapy
  - Law
  - Pastoral work
  - Social work
  - Education
  - Nursing

- Advantages over other applicants
  - Knowledge about thinking and behavior at 3 levels: brain, individual, group-level
  - Critical thinking/
  - ________________ skills

Benefits of Core Goals

- Despite variability, core goals of PSYCH programs

- Goals
  - Strong knowledge base
  - Strong ________________ skills
  - Strong info gathering/synthesis skills
  - Qualitative and quantitative analysis and ________________
  - Strong interpersonal/intrapersonal skills
  - Develop communication skills
  - History of psychology ________________

Goals _____________________________ employer interests

- What employers want from Psych. Majors
  
  _____________ Skills
  - Diversity
  - Interpersonal skills
  - Conflict resolution
  - Good team member

  _____________ Skills
  - Initiative and persistence
  - Time management
  - High ethical standards
  - Open minded

  _____________ Skills
  - Good listener
  - Good speaker
  - Good writer
  - Good reader

  Information Gathering and Processing Skills
  - Good planner
  - Completes projects successfully
  - Thinks logically and creatively
  - Synthesizes information well

--From Appleby (2000)

Most Likely Jobs for PSYCH majors

1. Top and mid-level _____________________________
2. Sales
3. Social worker
4. Other management-related occupation
5. HR & LIR specialist
6. Administrative assistant
7. Insurance, securities, real estate, business services
8. Marketing
9. Registered nurse, pharmacist, physician’s assistant
10. Accountant, auditor, financial specialist

- From The College Majors Handbook

Jobs with a Bachelor’s Degree

- Community and Social Services
  - Human services worker
  - Program director
  - Social worker
  - Volunteer coordinator
- Human Resources
  - Employee development  Training coordinator
  - Recruiter

- Residential Care
  - Developmentally delayed  Elderly
  - Emotionally troubled

- Management and Business
  - Sales  Banking
  - Public Relations  Customer Service
  - HRM

- Student Affairs/Services
  - Admissions  Career services
  - Residential life  Activities coordinator
  - Advising

- Law Enforcement
  - Police officer  Parole officer
  - Corrections officer

- Education
  - Child care  Peace corps
  - Teacher/aide

- R & D
  - Consulting and statistics

Also see - [http://www.psywww.com/careers/entry.htm](http://www.psywww.com/careers/entry.htm)

**Why Consider Grad School?**
- Bachelor’s Degree is typically a _____________________________ to Grad school, Law school, Med school
  - Bachelor’s _____________________________ to be practicing psychologist
    - Degree is CONTENT focused
    - _____________________________ typically taught in post baccalaureate schooling
  - _____________________________ starting salary for PSYCH majors nationally

- Paraprofessionals
  - Support role that overlaps job duties and responsibilities with a psychologist

- Challenges
  - Burnout
• Lack of ________________________________ on organization

• Satisfying TEMP work

• PSYCH Alumni Satisfaction Survey

  • Those in ________________________________ or PSYCH job most satisfied

  • ________________________________ jobs
    • Disappointment with salary in, but satisfaction with the impact of the work

  • ________________________________ jobs
    • Disappointment with impact of the work, but satisfaction with salary