

# Psychology and Social Work

**This group includes the following majors:**

- **Clinical Psychology**
- **Communications Disorders Sciences and Services**
- **Counseling Psychology**
- **Educational Psychology**
- **Human Services and Community Organization**
- **Industrial and Organizational Psychology**
- **Miscellaneous Psychology**
- **Psychology**
- **Social Psychology**
- **Social Work**

Psychology and Social Work make up 5.4 percent of all majors. Median earnings for those with only a Bachelor's degree who majored in Psychology and Social Work are \$42,000.<sup>1</sup> There is a significant gender imbalance in this major group (74 percent female, 26 percent male). However, women with these majors make, in the aggregate, \$40,000, which is \$12,000 less than men. The racial makeup of these majors, on average, is 74 percent White, 11 percent African-American, 8 percent Hispanic, 5 percent Asian and 1 percent Other Races.<sup>2</sup> Whites (\$44,000), African-Americans (\$40,000) and Hispanics (\$40,000) all make somewhat less than the median wages of \$48,000 earned by Asians.

There is great variation within the majors that make up this group. The major with the lowest median earnings is Counseling Psychology, while the highest is Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Earnings in Psychology and Social Work as a whole vary widely, with the 25th percentile earning \$30,000 and the 75th percentile earning \$62,000—a difference of \$32,000.

About 45 percent of people with these majors obtain a graduate degree, which gives them an average earnings boost of 43 percent.

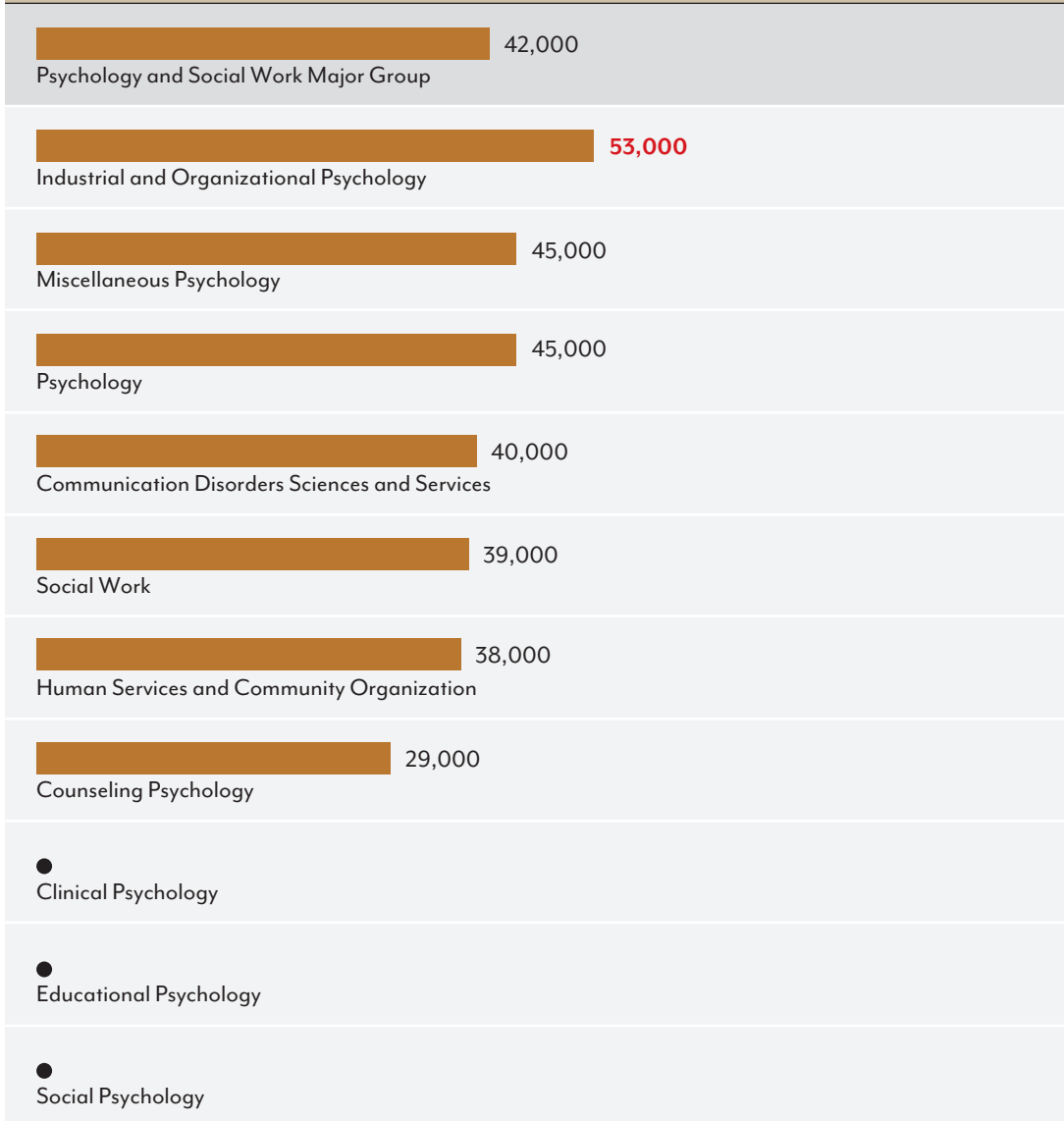
Of people who majored in Psychology and Social Work, 18 percent work in Community Services, 16 percent in Management, 15 percent in Office, 11 percent in Sales, and 8 percent in Education occupations. By industry, 26 percent work in Health Services, 12 percent in Education, and 12 percent in Public Administration.

Of those with a major in Psychology and Social work who are in the labor force and employed, 79 percent work full-time. About 6 percent are unemployed.

<sup>1</sup> All of the earnings data presented here is on full-time, full-year workers with a Bachelor's degree only.

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.

## MEDIAN EARNINGS OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK MAJOR GROUP\*



\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

**ALL**

Psychology and Social Work Major Group

Clinical Psychology

Communication Disorders Sciences and Services

Counseling Psychology

Educational Psychology

Human Services and Community Organization

Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Miscellaneous Psychology

Psychology

Social Psychology

Social Work

**POPULARITY OF MAJORS<sup>†</sup>**

Total Bachelor's	1,808,669	10,762	63,482	14,715	8,562	64,606	17,149	30,059	<b>1,318,539</b>	7,798	272,997
% of Major Group	100	1	4	1	<0.5	4	1	2	<b>73</b>	<0.5	15

**MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR\***

Median earnings	42,000	•	40,000	29,000	•	38,000	<b>53,000</b>	45,000	45,000	•	39,000
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**EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE\***

Earnings at the 25th percentile	30,000	•	31,000	21,000	•	27,000	<b>37,000</b>	30,000	31,000	•	30,000
Earnings at the 75th percentile	62,000	•	59,000	42,000	•	53,000	<b>78,000</b>	64,000	65,000	•	52,000
Difference	32,000	•	28,000	21,000	•	26,000	<b>41,000</b>	34,000	34,000	•	22,000

**PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE**

Did not obtain graduate degree (%)	55	34	28	30	38	<b>73</b>	62	50	57	52	57
Obtain graduate degree (%)	45	66	<b>72</b>	70	62	27	38	50	43	48	43

**EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE**

% Earnings Boost from Graduate Degree	43	•	49	67	•	37	28	<b>69</b>	45	•	32
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**WORK STATUS\***

Full-time (%)	79	79	68	81	88	88	79	84	79	<b>93</b>	80
Part-time (%)	21	21	<b>32</b>	19	12	12	21	16	21	7	20

**PERCENT EMPLOYED\*\***

Employed (%)	94	95	<b>97</b>	90	96	94	94	94	94	84	95
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<sup>†</sup> The ACS data are best used to discuss distributional characteristics of the underlying population. However, we also include the number of degree holders to provide the reader with an 'order of magnitude' sense of the number of people with this major.

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

\*\* Of people in the labor force.

## GENDER

	Psychology and Social Work Major Group	Clinical Psychology	Communication Disorders Sciences and Services	Counseling Psychology	Educational Psychology	Human Services and Community Organization	Industrial and Organizational Psychology	Miscellaneous Psychology	Psychology	Social Psychology	Social Work
<b>GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS</b>											
Percent Female	74	76	94	74	78	81	63	71	71	68	88
Percent Male	26	24	6	26	22	19	37	29	29	32	12
<b>EARNINGS BY GENDER*</b>											
Female Median Earnings	40,000	•	40,000	•	•	35,000	57,000	42,000	41,000	•	38,000
Male Median Earnings	52,000	•	•	•	•	40,000	•	55,000	53,000	•	48,000
Difference	12,000	•	•	•	•	5,000	•	13,000	12,000	•	10,000

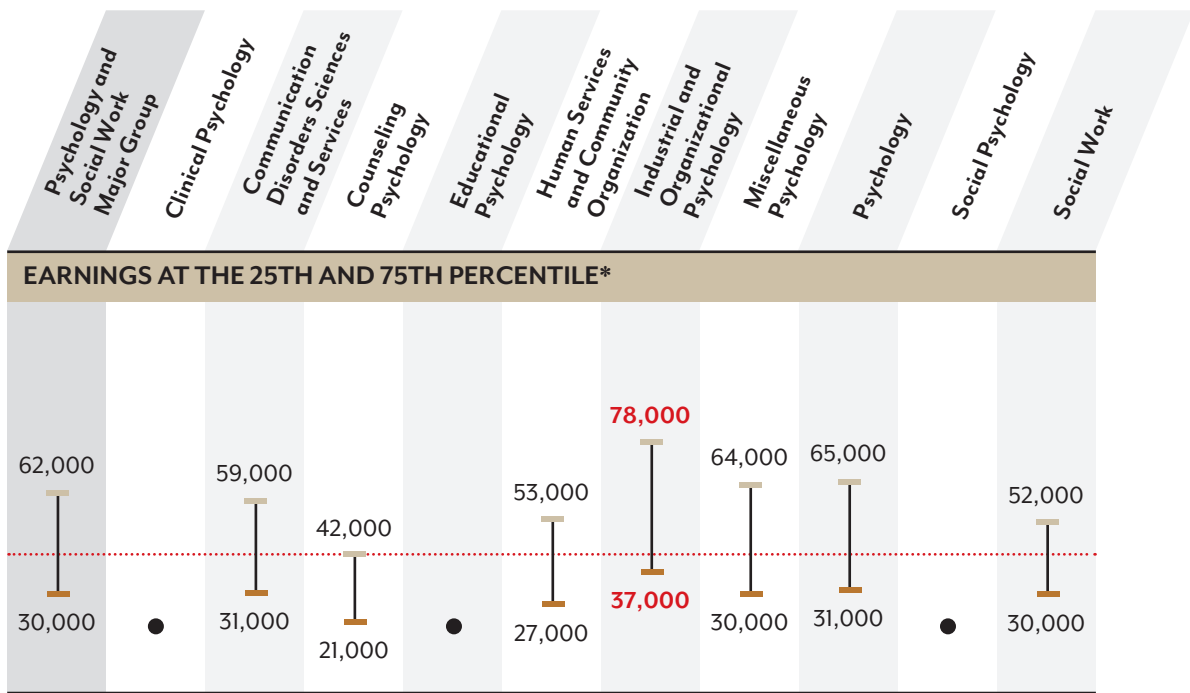
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## RACE AND ETHNICITY

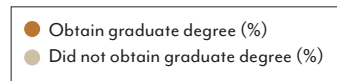
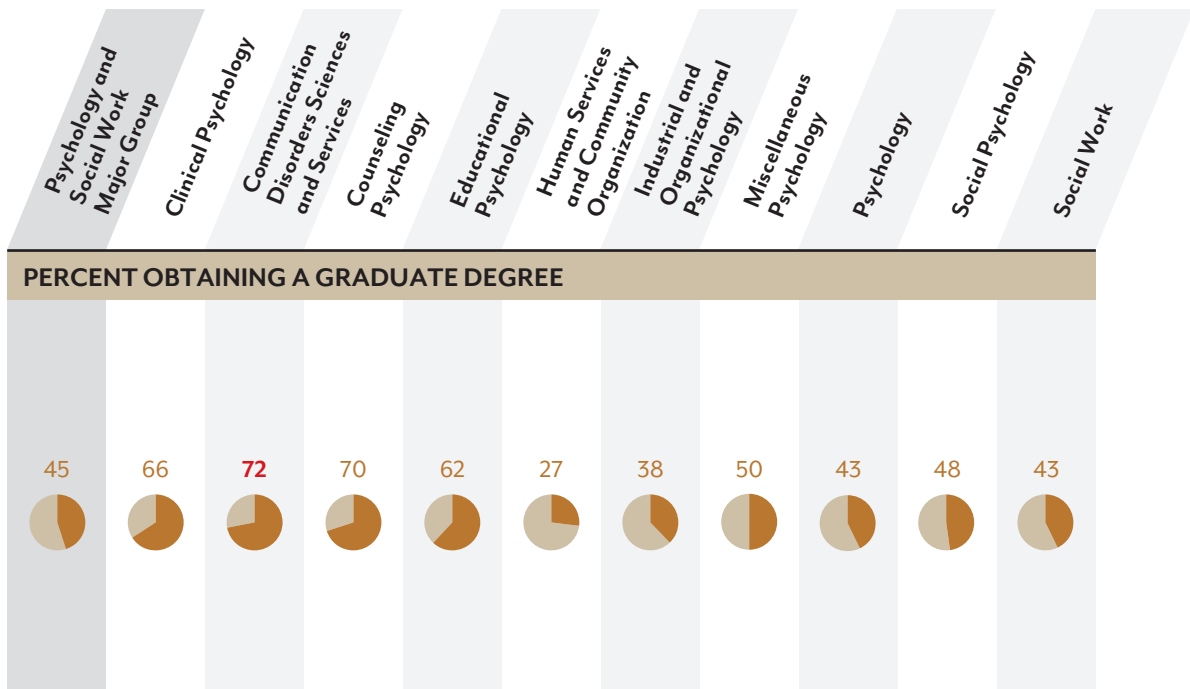
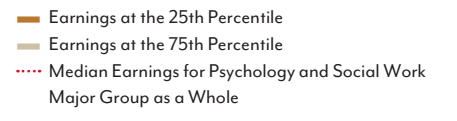
	Psychology and Social Work Major Group	Clinical Psychology	Communication Disorders Sciences and Services	Counseling Psychology	Educational Psychology	Human Services and Community Organization	Industrial and Organizational Psychology	Miscellaneous Psychology	Psychology	Social Psychology	Social Work
<b>RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS<sup>Δ</sup></b>											
% White	76	70	85	72	80	65	69	71	77	67	71
% African-American	11	14	5	20	12	21	13	12	9	12	16
% Hispanic	8	14	5	3	4	11	14	10	8	19	9
% Asian	5	2	4	5	4	1	3	7	5	2	3
% Other Races and Ethnicities	1	<0.5	<0.5	1	<0.5	2	1	<0.5	1	<0.5	1

<sup>Δ</sup> Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.



\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

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**WHERE PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK MAJORS END UP BY OCCUPATION\***

	<b>1st Occupation (%)</b>	<b>2nd Occupation (%)</b>	<b>3rd Occupation (%)</b>	<b>4th Occupation (%)</b>	<b>5th Occupation (%)</b>
<b>Psychology and Social Work Major Group</b>	COMM (18)	MGMT (16)	OFF (15)	SALES (11)	EDU (8)
<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	SALES (23)	MGMT (21)	OFF (12)	COMM (12)	HLTH PROF (7)
<b>Communication Disorders Sciences and Services</b>	EDU (19)	HLTH PROF (18)	OFF (16)	SALES (12)	MGMT (9)
<b>Counseling Psychology</b>	COMM (29)	OFF (15)	BUS (15)	EDU (11)	MGMT (9)
<b>Educational Psychology</b>	EDU (43)	OFF (22)	BUS (8)	MGMT (7)	SALES (7)
<b>Human Services and Community Organization</b>	COMM (27)	OFF (15)	MGMT (15)	EDU (7)	PROT (6)
<b>Industrial and Organizational Psychology</b>	MGMT (25)	OFF (20)	BUS (13)	FIN (10)	SALES (10)
<b>Miscellaneous Psychology</b>	MGMT (18)	EDU (11)	OFF (11)	COMM (10)	SALES (9)
<b>Psychology</b>	MGMT (17)	OFF (15)	COMM (13)	SALES (12)	EDU (8)
<b>Social Psychology</b>	MGMT (30)	COMM (21)	OFF (11)	FIN (9)	COMP (7)
<b>Social Work</b>	COMM (45)	OFF (13)	MGMT (11)	SALES (6)	EDU (5)

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

**Occupation Abbreviations:**

Architecture = ARCH  
 Arts = ARTS  
 Blue Collar = BC  
 Building = BLDG  
 Business = BUS  
 Community Service = COMM  
 Computer Services = COMP  
 Construction = CON  
 Education = EDU  
 Engineering = ENGR  
 Finance = FIN  
 Food Service = FOOD

Health Professionals = HLTH PROF  
 Health Support = HLTH SUP  
 Installation = INST  
 Legal = LGL  
 Life Science = LS  
 Management = MGMT  
 Office = OFF  
 Personal Service = PERS  
 Production = PROD  
 Protective Services = PROT  
 Sales = SALES  
 Social Science = SS  
 Transportation = TRAN

**WHERE PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK MAJORS END UP BY INDUSTRY\***

	<b>1st Industry (%)</b>	<b>2nd Industry (%)</b>	<b>3rd Industry (%)</b>	<b>4th Industry (%)</b>	<b>5th Industry (%)</b>
<b>Psychology and Social Work Major Group</b>	HS (26)	EDU (12)	PUB (12)	FIN (9)	PROF (7)
<b>Clinical Psychology</b>	HS (28)	WHLS-nd (13)	RETL (11)	PUB (11)	EDU (10)
<b>Communication Disorders Sciences and Services</b>	EDU (30)	HS (22)	PROF (10)	RETL (7)	FIN (6)
<b>Counseling Psychology</b>	HS (52)	EDU (10)	FIN (7)	RETL (5)	MAN-nd (4)
<b>Educational Psychology</b>	EDU (46)	RETL (19)	HS (11)	ADMN (8)	PROF (5)
<b>Human Services and Community Organization</b>	HS (34)	PUB (21)	EDU (12)	FIN (6)	RETL (5)
<b>Industrial and Organizational Psychology</b>	FIN (16)	PUB (16)	PROF (13)	RE (9)	MAN-d (7)
<b>Miscellaneous Psychology</b>	HS (20)	EDU (12)	PUB (12)	FIN (10)	MAN-d (8)
<b>Psychology</b>	HS (22)	EDU (12)	FIN (10)	PUB (10)	PROF (8)
<b>Social Psychology</b>	HS (29)	EDU (19)	PUB (15)	PROF (11)	TRAN (5)
<b>Social Work</b>	HS (45)	PUB (17)	EDU (9)	OS (5)	RETL (4)

\* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

**Industry Abbreviations:**

Administrative Services = ADMN

Agriculture = AG

Arts = ARTS

Construction = CON

Education Services = EDU

Financial Services = FIN

Food Service = FS

Health Services = HS

Information = INFO

Management Services = MGMT

Manufacturing (durable) = MAN-d

Manufacturing (non-durable) = MAN-nd

Mining = MNG

Other Service = OS

Professional Services = PROF

Public Administration = PUB

Real Estate = RE

Retail Trade = RETL

Sales = SALES

Social Science = SS

Transportation = TRAN

Utilities = UTIL

Wholesale Trade (durable) = WHLS-d

Wholesale Trade (non-durable) = WHLS-nd