

Robert J. Sternberg

Introduction

Few fields of study offer more career opportunities than does psychology. This book is about those career opportunities and how you can take advantage of them. The opportunities are diverse, challenging, and fun. And for the most part, they pay well. They are also flexible: People can switch, often fairly easily and with a minimum amount of adjustment, from one career within psychology to another. Moreover, even within a single career, the variety of challenges and activities will interest even the most easily bored individual.

This is the third edition of this work. The first edition was published roughly two decades ago. The second edition was published roughly one decade ago. When 10 or so years have passed, the time is ripe for a new edition, simply because the opportunities for psychologists change so much within the course of 10 years. This book contains 12 more chapters than the second edition did, and that edition in turn contained 5 more chapters than did the first. You can see that opportunities in psychology, unlike in many fields, have

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Career Paths in Psychology: Where Your Degree Can Take You, Third Edition,
R. J. Sternberg (Editor)

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been constantly expanding. All of the chapters in this book are new. Some are revisions of early chapters, but even the revisions reflect the changing nature of the job market in the field of psychology.

Psychology is not only one of the most interesting fields of study but also one of the most diverse: Few fields offer a greater number and variety of career opportunities. College students who decide to major in psychology, therefore, open up a world of possibilities for themselves. Graduate students can be confident of diverse kinds of careers, and practicing psychologists often can change the kind of work they do or the setting in which they work while remaining with the field of psychology.

Psychology is one of the most rewarding fields a person can enter. Psychology can be fun. It helps people, advances scientific and clinical understanding, and pays relatively well. Most psychologists earn well above the median salary for the United States. Few earn stratospheric wages, but some do—generally highly successful psychologists in private practice, organizational psychologists, or writers of textbooks or books for the popular press. Realistically, chances are you will neither go broke nor live in a palatial mansion if you choose a career in psychology. What you will do is help people improve their lives, help students learn to understand themselves and others, and perhaps advance the state of the field's knowledge—and have a great time while you are doing whatever you are doing.

This book will help you start on a career path in psychology, or perhaps continue on one or even change the path you are on. The chapters in this book tell you about 30 different careers in psychology for those who have obtained a terminal degree (usually, a PhD, EdD, or PsyD). Each chapter discusses the nature of the career, how to prepare for the career, typical activities people pursue while engaged in the career, the approximate range of financial compensation for the career, the advantages and disadvantages people typically find in the career, personal and professional attributes desirable for success in the career, and opportunities for employment and advancement in the career.

The authors of the chapters were chosen for their distinction in their chosen careers. They all have achieved a level of prominence and a depth of experience that any budding graduate student should seek to emulate. They were asked to write about their careers not only because of their stature in their respective fields but also because of their ability to convey the excitement of their careers to readers of this book.

A book of this length cannot cover every possible career, but the careers that are covered are fairly well representative of the range of work psychologists do and the range of careers that a substantial proportion of psychologists have chosen.

The book is divided into three main parts: academia; clinical and counseling psychology; specialized settings. This organization of chapters is but one of many possible arrangements, but it does seem to capture a way in which at least some people organize the field.

I hope readers find in this volume a series of examples that will both inspire and enthuse them. Psychology is a field that offers many possibilities, and I wish you well on your journey of discovery.