

# PSYCHOLOGY

2009

The profession of psychology covers a lot of ground and many different forms of practice. Clinical psychologists study and treat disorders of personality and behavior at different stages of life. Industrial and organizational psychologists provide counsel on how to get the best out of employees, for example, through incentives and training. Social and behavioral psychologists help businesses study consumer behavior. They also help government agencies understand social and cultural phenomena. Educational psychologists orient and guide school children and help adults in their efforts to retrain for new jobs. Other psychologists work in the criminal justice system. Psychology should not be confused with psychiatry, a medical speciality, or with psychoanalysis or psychotherapy, which are unregulated professions. To earn the right to claim the professional title of psychologist, students must complete a defined curriculum in psychology that includes a licence, 2-year master's degree, and internship.

**Field:** Humanities and social sciences

Also see the following profiles: *Human resource management, Medicine, Psychoanalysis, Humanities and social sciences.*

**Professional opportunities:** public service, clinical psychology, social psychologist (market studies, consumer behavior), educational psychologist, trainer, industrial/organizational psychologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst.

## ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES

### At the university and in the profession

There is no university degree that confers the legal or customary right to practice psychoanalysis or psychotherapy. Because successful psychoanalytic interpretation requires a very high level of general knowledge, particularly in the humanities, specialized psychoanalytic training does not begin until the student has completed a master's degree.

Various psychoanalytic institutes, many affiliated with the Psychoanalytic Society of Paris, provide professional training. The program has three principal components:

- Completion of a personal analysis
- Clinical supervision by an experienced colleague
- Continuing education through participation in seminars, lectures, and writing.

Training typically extends over a period of 5 to 10 years.

### Professional practice

Psychoanalysts do their work in private offices and in institutional settings. Some prefer to operate in both contexts. Institutions that employ psychoanalysts include combined psychological, medical, and pedagogical centers; centers for preventive medicine and mental hygiene; and various specialized-care centers devoted to treating addiction and substance abuse, cancer patients, and seniors, among others.

### Types of care

The classic psychoanalytic cure is the most rigorous clinical application of the psychoanalytic method and tradition, but it is not appropriate or feasible in all situations.

Analytic psychotherapy is tailored to the needs and characteristics of each patient. Almost always it occurs face to face. Psychoanalysis of children and adolescents draws on other modes of investigation. Family psychotherapy is conducted with all or several members of the same family. There are other therapeutic approaches in the analytical tradition, as well, such as transactional analysis. All require a solid base of analytical training.

## ▶ Web sites

- Psychoanalytic Society of Paris  
<http://www.spp.asso.fr>
- Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis  
<http://www.ecole-lacanienne.net>
- SNP (Syndicat National des Psychologues, national union of psychologists)  
<http://www.psychologues.org>
- ANVIE (national association for interdisciplinary business applications of scientific research in the humanities and social sciences)  
<http://www.cnrs.fr/cw/fr/nomi/prix/Anvie96/anvie95.html>
- CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, national center for scientific research), department of humanities and social sciences  
<http://www.cnrs.fr>
- AEJCPP (European association for research in psychopathology and psychoanalysis)  
<http://aejcpp.free.fr/>
- Francophone psychoanalysis portal:  
<http://www.psychanalyse-en-ligne.org/>  
<http://www.oedipe.org/fr/accueil>

## ▶ Keywords

adolescence – adult – affect – analysis – anthropology – art – childhood – clinic – cognitive processes – cognitive sciences – consciousness – culture – cure – dreams – education – emotion – family – Freud – gerontology – health – hospital – humanities and social sciences – interpretation – investigation – Lacan – literature – mental health – neurology – neurosis – pathology – philosophy – psychoanalysis of art – psychiatry – psychology – psychopathology – psychotherapy – reflexes – slip of the tongue – subconscious – support for disturbed, maladapted, and marginalized individuals – suppression – transfer – unconscious