

Career Prospects in Psychology

As varied as psychology is as a discipline, so are other career prospects after having studied them. Even simply a bachelor's degree in Psychology prepares its graduates for jobs in many fields other than strictly psychology as it ensures they have good research and analysis skills, which allows them to both land jobs in advisory positions in public and private institutions and pursue higher education in other, non-psychology fields if they choose so (APA, 2008). Holding at least a master's degree is preferred however for more advanced job prospects in conducting research, studying social developments as developmental psychologists, teaching students as counselors, promoting physical and mental health as practitioners, supporting communities as community psychologists, or supervising work environments as I/O psychologists.

This variety in possible jobs only makes it clearer to us students how important it is to always think ahead when we are planning on which universities and programs to which we apply. APA's advice for postdoctoral psychologists applies to us too: We must assess what we know, explore our options and set our goals based on what we want and what we currently lack, and we must do this over and over again as we advance in our educational journeys to keep us on our desired tracks; "[t]he sooner [we] start, the better" (APA, 2016).

Psychology Research Guidelines

How else to get ready? You can start your research journey early too. If you choose to study in Turkey, most probably there will be no research option in the undergraduate curriculum of the program that you will attend. Then, keeping your GPA as high as possible, you may investigate external research opportunities.

But why wait until university? You may also look into research in high school. Of course, doing research during the high school years is not common and it might be hard where to begin. If that is the case for you too, International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) resources might be helpful as their Psychology courses include research projects and papers, and psychology experiments that are evaluated on academic standards.

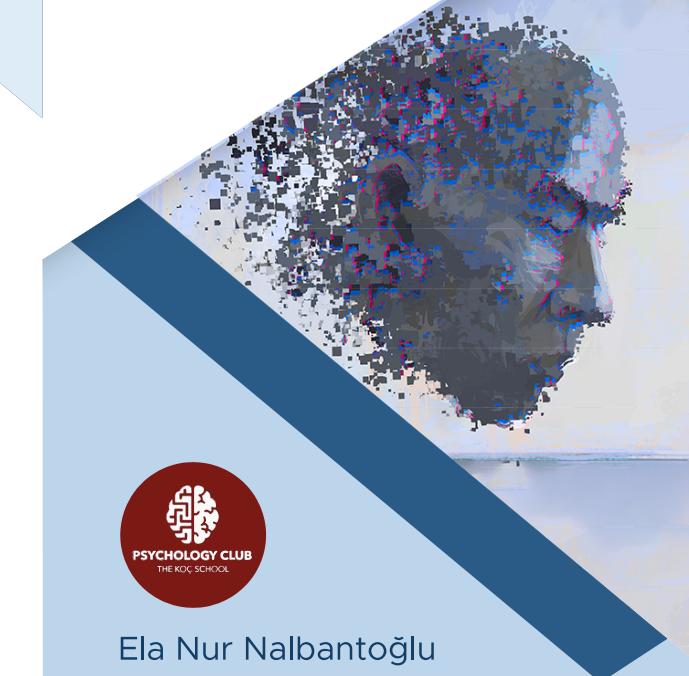
IB Psychology allows you to prepare a work called Extended Essay which is a research project and paper where you are required to ask a research question and try to answer that question by examining existing literature and synthesizing that information within a paper (Karmakar, 2020b, 2020c). In contrast, another possible project called Internal Assessment requires you to design your experiment or survey to answer a research question on your own (Karmakar, 2020a). Examining these two projects' grading criteria could already give you a great idea of what academically studying Psychology at university entails.

It would be very beneficial for a student who would like to pursue psychology to be familiar with the ethical rules including personal data protection rules both in Turkey and abroad. This would enlarge the vision of the student regarding the occupational insight of the major. For Turkey, I suggest taking a look at the Turkish Psychologists Association's (Türk Psikologlar Derneği – TPD) Ethics Guide for detailed information on disciplinary standards overall in this field (TPD, 2004/2018).

Because psychology focuses on the human experience, wherever there is human experience, there is a need for data protection too. In the digital age, personal data has gained the utmost importance in all parts of life and therefore a strong need arose to protect it and avoid its misuse. In this context, the EU prepared the "General Data Protection Regulation" (GDPR) as an EU Law on data protection and privacy in the European Union and the European Economic Area (Intersoft Consulting, n.d.). It is an important component of EU privacy law and human rights law. For example, the British Psychological Society (BPS) has updated its ethical guidelines for data protection since the GDPR law has been put into place (BPS, 2018). Although it is a law prepared for EU and EEC countries, many other countries also highly value this law. American Psychological Association points out that its divisions work diligently to support efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with GDPR (APA, 2019). In Turkey, data protection regulations are named "Kişisel Verilerin Korunması Kanunu" (KVKK) (T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Mezvuat Bilgi Sistemi, 2016) and although it predates the issue of the specific European GDPR law, Turkish associations should and do give both regulations equal weight and do their best to comply with both (KVKK VERBiS, n.d.).

A Journey Through Psychology

From High School & Beyond



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For More Information And All References Read The QR Code.



Journey Through Psychology from High School and Beyond

Maybe, you feel that psychology could be a good match for you to pursue at university and decided to explore it more. Or you are fascinated by psychology and want to include it with whatever major you study as a concentration, track, minor, or simply take elective courses about it.

If these statements apply to you, good! You are in the right place. My presentation might help you with some general information about psychology, the education options you have in the field, and important tips while researching if you intend to do your own research during high school, including regulations regarding professional practice in Turkey and abroad. These were the steps that I followed to learn more extensively about this field and I want to share them with you hoping they help guide you in your decisions too.

Research and Methodology Focused

Quantitative Psychology Experimental Psychology

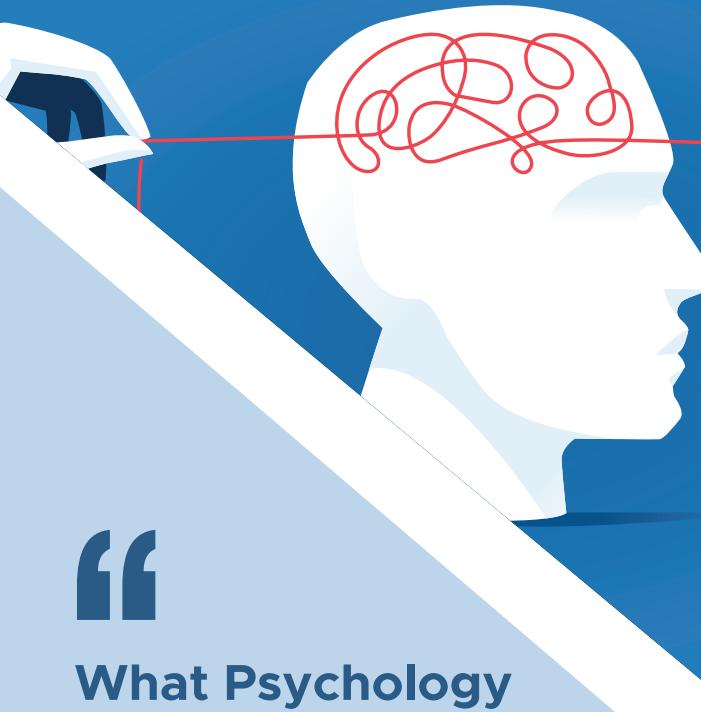
Specific Subjects

Cognitive Psychology	Educational Psychology	Developmental Psychology
Industrial/Organizational Psychology	Engineering Psychology	Social Psychology
Climate and Environmental Psychology	Forensic and Public Service Psychology	Sport and Performance Psychology

Health Focused

Clinical Psychology Counselling Psychology Health Psychology Rehabilitation Psychology

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What Psychology Encompasses

First of all, I believe that all students who want to pursue psychology should be aware of The American Psychological Association, shortly APA, and its function along with its guidelines in whatever country psychology is studied since science does not have borders. APA is the largest scientific and professional organization of psychologists in the United States, with a huge number of members, including scientists, educators, clinicians, consultants and students, and is a highly prestigious professional body having a significant role in psychological practice.

APA defines psychology as "the study of the mind and behavior" (APA, 2015a). This definition is as broad as it sounds; it encompasses every aspect of human life imaginable from the singular minds of individuals no matter their age or developmental level to the collective actions of large societies. Given this wide area of interest, at least one area of psychology should overlap perfectly with your interests.

What to Know About Studying Psychology in Higher Education

First, let me define some academic jargon: A major is a specific subject area in which students specialize. Typically, between one-third and one-half of the courses, you'll take in college will be in your major or related to it. This means that if you choose psychology as a major to study, then, depending on your university, half or one-third of the full courses that you will need to take will be related to psychology. A minor can be taken alongside a major with its own, smaller percentage of prerequisite courses (15% for minor as opposed to 25% for major) depending on the subject (Sul Ross State University, n.d.). As an example, Northwestern University (n.d.) requires Psychology majors and minors to complete 3 core psychology courses while major students need 8 additional psychology elective courses to get their degree versus minors who need only 4 additional psychology elective courses. In contrast, a concentration is a specialized track within a major that may focus on one or a few related subdisciplines in the overall discipline of the major topic. For example, Brown University (2022) Psychology concentration requires 12 psychology courses for a Bachelor of Arts degree and an additional 5 science and laboratory courses for a Bachelor of Science degree. Lastly, much like the difference between majors and minors, options differ from concentrations in that they require fewer prerequisite classes but in a narrower choice of topics (PennState Smeal College of Business, n.d.).

We are a generation very fortunate to have a good deal of freedom to design our programs. Of course, there are core courses that are prerequisites to be completed in a discipline meaning they have to be completed to graduate from the program, and the specifics for graduation can change from one university to another and from one country to another. Therefore, it is our responsibility to explore well what we are going to complete in our future studies and we should be careful in our university selections.

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