

# PSYCHOLOGIST

Psychologists and Psychological Associates study the behavior, emotions, and thinking processes of humans to better understand their behavior. They are trained to assess, diagnose, and treat mental disorders by using individual, child, family, and group therapies. A Psychologist must have a PhD while a Psychological Associate is licensed at a Master's Level. Psychologists may teach, conduct research, or serve as consultants or therapists. They may also serve as administrators of behavioral health programs.

Psychologists may specialize in a particular area. For example, clinical psychologists may work with emotionally disturbed individuals, medical and surgical patients, and chronically ill patients. Counseling psychologists advise patients on how to cope with everyday issues and help to resolve personal problems. Examples of other areas of specialization include community psychology, developmental psychology and social psychology.

Psychologists may also work with students in schools to evaluate academic skills, learning aptitudes, social skills, self-help skills, personality and emotional development. School psychologists determine eligibility for special service programs and work directly with students or families to help solve conflicts and problems related to learning and adjustment. They provide counseling, social skills training, behavior management, and other interventions to help families deal with difficult crises such as separation or loss.

## Where do psychologists work in Alaska?



In Alaska, psychologists work in hospitals, correctional institutions, mental health clinics, private practices, public schools and universities, and with government agencies and tribal health organizations.



## Hourly Wage Range\*

**\$16.66-\$41.12 (Mean \$28.92)**

\*based on Alaska DOL data



## Years in School:

**6-8 years\***

\*after high school graduation

## Educational Requirements

Educational requirements vary depending upon the psychology subspeciality. School psychologists and psychological associates hold at least a master's degree in psychology. A doctoral degree is required for clinical or counseling psychology, and for research and teaching positions.



- Graduation from high school with a college preparatory background.
- Completion of a four year bachelor's degree with a psychology major or other behavioral health major.
- Completion of a master's degree in psychology to qualify for State of Alaska licensure as a Psychological Associate or School Psychologist.
- Completion of a doctoral degree in psychology to qualify for State of Alaska licensure as a Psychologist.

## Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Psychology Department

Phone: (907) 786-1711

Web site: <http://psych.uaa.alaska.edu/>

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Psychology Department

Phone: (907) 474-7007

Web site: <http://www.uaf.edu/psych/>

Alaska Pacific University

Counseling and Psychological Studies Department

Phone: (907) 561-1226

Web site: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/depts/py/>

## State and National Contacts

### State Contact:

Alaska Psychological Association AK-PA

Phone/Fax: (907) 344-8878

Email: [info@ak-pa.org](mailto:info@ak-pa.org)

Web site: <http://www.ak-pa.org/>

### National Contact:

American Psychological Association

Phone: (202) 336-5500

Toll free: (800) 374-2721

Web site: <http://www.apa.org/>

Information from: [www.healthcareersinalaska.info](http://www.healthcareersinalaska.info)

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developed by Alaska Center for Rural Health-Alaska's AHEC: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh/>