



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

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.

Psychologist Facts:

Where do psychologists work in Alaska?

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

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. Passing both national and state exams, as well as two years of clinical supervision are necessary to be licensed by the State of Alaska as a Psychological Associate or a Psychologist. (School psychologist licensing requires an institutional endorsement set up through the College of Education.) Educational steps include:

- 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.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.52-\$55.50 (Mean \$35.05)
**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

6-8 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage, Psychology Department

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

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Psychology Department

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

Alaska Pacific University

Counseling and Psychological Studies Department

Web site: <http://www.alaskapacific.edu/academics/Departments/psych/Pages/Default.aspx>

State Contacts:

Alaska Psychological Association AK-PA

Website: <http://www.ak-pa.org/>

National Contacts:

American Psychological Association

Phone: (202) 336-5500

Toll free: (800) 374-2721

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

