

Psychological Science KSAs

1. Social Perceptiveness and Inclusivity

Psychology students learn skills in working with diverse groups of people, being sensitive to individual and cultural differences, and creating inclusive environments.

Relevance to Careers:

- *Human Resources:* Human resources specialists address employee relations, workplace harassment, and discrimination.
- *Social and Human Services:* Case workers and nonprofit managers provide, plan, and coordinate social services to diverse individuals.
- *Recreation Services.* Recreation coordinators and activity directors assess the needs and interests of individuals, plan, organize, and lead activities, and manage daily tasks in recreational settings.

2. Effective Communication (Written and Oral)

Psychological science involves translating theories and research findings into everyday language. Students learn to relate psychological concepts and research findings to practical situations and explain their usefulness to decision makers, learners, and others.

Relevance to Careers:

- *Business and Management:* Professionals in corporate, nonprofit, or government management identify problems and determine solutions based on available evidence.
- *Education or Workplace Training:* Teaching and training requires the ability to explain theories, concepts, and research findings clearly.

3. Data Analytics

Psychological science majors collect, organize, and analyze data to answer questions. Tools include descriptive and inferential statistics and analysis software. Students learn proficiency in communicating their findings.

Relevance to Careers:

- *Data Science:* Data scientists use statistical and data visualization applications to interpret data.
- *Research:* Survey researchers and social science research assistants design and conduct surveys, and analyze and interpret survey data.
- *Training and Development:* Training and development specialists examine data to assess training needs and effectiveness.

4. Research Design

Psychology involves designing and carrying out research to answer theoretical and practical questions. Techniques include reading background literature, experimenting, surveying, and data collection.

Relevance to Careers:

- *Academia and Other Research:* Researchers contribute to scholarly work in universities, government agencies, and other research institutions.
- *Market Research:* Market research analysts and marketing specialists gather information on customers, competitors, prices, etc. to determine marketing strategies.

5. Self-Regulation and Adaptability

Psychology students learn to understand themselves; manage their time and complete assigned tasks independently; and adjust successfully to change by responding proactively and flexibly, learning new skills and applying them in new situations.

Relevance to Careers:

- *Long-Term Career Success:* Successful careers in any profession require excellent self-management. Careers frequently involve transitions to different jobs, roles, or organizations. These transitions can involve acquiring and applying new knowledge and skills, and learning to be effective in new situations. A strong foundation in self-regulation and adaptability prepare students seek challenges and do meaningful work throughout their work lives.

For Parents and Students

A psychological science degree provides students with practical, transferable skills that are highly valued in a dynamic job market. Employers seek candidates who understand others, possess research and data skills, and communicate effectively, and these are skills at which psychological science majors excel. A psychological science background also provides the self-regulation and intellectual skills, as well as adaptability, to set the stage for personal and career growth, and a successful, fulfilling life. Careers for which psychological science graduates are well qualified include:

1. Research (e.g., survey researcher, academics or other scholarly research)
2. Data science (e.g., data analyst)
3. Business (e.g., human resources, market research, training and development)
4. Education (e.g., teacher, academic advisor)
5. Social Service (e.g., nonprofit manager, social work)
6. Recreation (e.g., recreation coordinator, activity director)