WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Investigate processes of learning and teaching and develop psychological principles and techniques applicable to educational problems.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A specialist degree is required in most States for an individual to work as a school psychologist, although a few States still credential school psychologists with master’s degrees. A specialist (Ed.S.) degree in school psychology requires a minimum of 3 years of full-time graduate study (at least 60 graduate semester hours) and a 1-year internship. Because their professional practice addresses educational and mental health components of students’ development, school psychologists’ training includes coursework in both education and psychology.

TASKS:

• Compile and interpret students’ test results, along with information from teachers and parents, in order to diagnose conditions, and to help assess eligibility for special services.
• Report any pertinent information to the proper authorities in cases of child endangerment, neglect, or abuse.
• Assess an individual child's needs, limitations, and potential, using observation, review of school records, and consultation with parents and school personnel.
• Select, administer, and score psychological tests.
• Provide consultation to parents, teachers, administrators, and others on topics such as learning styles and behavior modification techniques.
• Promote an understanding of child development and its relationship to learning and behavior.
• Collaborate with other educational professionals to develop teaching strategies and school programs.
• Counsel children and families to help solve conflicts and problems in learning and adjustment.
• Develop individualized educational plans in collaboration with teachers and other staff members.
• Maintain student records, including special education reports, confidential records, records of services provided, and behavioral data.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS:

School Psychologist, Psychologist, Consulting Psychologist, Child Study Team Director, School Psychometrist

State and National Wages (2006):

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<th>10%</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<th>75%</th>
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<td>U.S.</td>
<td>35,300</td>
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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES:

American Psychological Association http://www.apa.org/students
National Association of School Psychologist http://www.nasponline.org
American Board of Professional Psychology http://www.abpp.org

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

online.onetcenter.org
www.bls.gov/oco