

# **Chapter 1: What is Psychology?**

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# Definition of Psychology

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Please to note that I do not follow the organization of the textbook

- **Undergone many transformations**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century**
    - **John B. Watson**
    - **James R. Angell**
  - **John F. Dashiell**
  - **Howard C. Warren**
  - **Howard Nunn**

# Definition of Psychology

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- **Early 1960s**
  - **Clifford Morgan**
- **Later 1960s**
- **1970s**
- **Today:**
  - **The scientific study of behavior and mental processes.**

# Critical Thinking



- **Involves 5 questions:**
  - **What am I being asked to believe?**
  - **Is there evidence to support the claim?**
  - **Can that evidence be interpreted in another way?**
  - **What evidence would help to evaluate the alternatives**
  - **What conclusions are most reasonable?**

# Critical Thinking



- **Keys to critical thinking:**
  - **Be open minded**
  - **Be intellectually curious**
  - **Look for multiple determinants of behavior**
  - **Think like a scientist**

# The Scientific Method

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- **Four Steps:**

- **Observation of something of interest in the natural world**
- **Formulation of a hypothesis**
- **Collection of data**
- **Analyze the data**

# **Other Methods of Knowledge Acquisition**

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- **Authoritative Pronouncements**
- **Democratic Judgments**
- **Reason**
- **Feelings**
- **Sensory Information & Experience**

# Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

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- **Behaviorism**
  - John B. Watson
  - B.F. Skinner
  - Ivan Pavlov
- **Psychodynamic (Psychoanalytic)**
  - Sigmund Freud
  - Alfred Adler
  - Carl Jung



# Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

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- **Humanistic**

- Carl Rogers
- Abraham Maslow

- **Cognitive**

- Jean Piaget
- (Wilhelm Wundt & William James)
- Ulric Neisser

# Seven Contemporary Psychological Perspectives

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- **Biological/Neuroscientific**
- **Sociocultural**
- **Evolutionary**
  - **David Buss**
  - **Steven Pinker**

# **What does a Psychologist Do?**

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- **Contemporary psychology has a number of fields of subspecialization**
  - **Can differentiate between research and applied perspectives**
- **Differences between a psychologist and a psychiatrist**

# **What does a Psychologist Do?**

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- **How to become a psychologist**
- **The Boulder Conference**

# Graduate Programs at WKU

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- **WKU offers graduate-level psychology programs in:**
  - **Clinical Psychology (MA)**
  - **School Psychology (EdS)**
  - **Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MA)**
  - **General Psychology (MA)**

# Graduate Programs at WKU

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- **Admission Minimum Requirements:**
  - **GPA: 3.00**
  - **GRE: 850 (Verbal + Quantitative)**
  - **12 hours of undergraduate psychology courses**
  - **Three letters of recommendation**
- **Completion requirements**

# Graduate Programs at WKU

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- **Averages for FA 2002 WKU Clinical Acceptees:**
  - **GPA: 3.54**
  - **Psych GPA: 3.58**
  - **GRE Verbal: 469**
  - **GRE Quantitative: 551**
  - **GRE Total: 1020**

# Graduate Programs at WKU

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- **Averages for 1992-1993 Doctoral Level Acceptees:**
  - **GPA: 3.50**
  - **Psych GPA: 3.66**
  - **GRE Verbal: 593**
  - **GRE Quantitative: 613**
  - **GRE Total: 1206**



# Graduate Programs at WKU

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- **Averages for 1992-1993 Master's Level Acceptees:**
  - **GPA: 3.27**
  - **Psych GPA: 3.42**
  - **GRE Verbal: 517**
  - **GRE Quantitative: 533**
  - **GRE Total: 1033**

# **What if you don't want to go to grad school?**

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- **Do you have to go to graduate school to get a job with a psychology degree?**

# **Top 10 Skills Employers Like in Psychology Majors**

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- **Listening Skills**
- **Ability to Work on Teams**
- **Interpersonal Awareness**
- **Desire and Ability to Learn**
- **Willingness to Gain New Skills**
- **Focus on the Customer/Clients**
- **Environmental Awareness**

# **Top 10 Skills Employers Like in Psychology Majors**

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- **Adaptability**
- **Critical Evaluation**
- **Problem-Solving Skills**

# **Other Skills Gained With a Psychology Major**

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- **Literacy**
- **Statistical Familiarity**
- **Computer Literacy**
- **Research Skills**
- **Perspective**
- **Pragmatism**

# **So, what kind of job can I get with my B.A. in Psychology?**

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- **50% of Psychology graduates were employed with a for-profit company**
- **20% public affairs or social services**
- **14% teaching**
- **10% sales**
- **10% state or local government**

# Salary range

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- **2001 survey**
  - **Range of \$21,900-\$40,000**
    - **Management: \$30,488**
    - **Teaching: \$25,378**
    - **Counseling: \$24,724**
    - **Social Work: \$23,988**
    - **Sales: \$34,451**
    - **Government: \$20,000-\$29,000**