PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL

What do you think will be the most serious problem in this century? Write your answer in your journal.

Chapter Overview
Visit the Understanding Psychology Web site at glencoe.com and click on Chapter 21—Chapter Overviews to preview the chapter.
In the passage above, author Stephen Poland describes his experiences with teaching a group of mentally challenged Navajo children. This adventure led him to seek his destiny and his career—becoming a school psychologist.

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

“What are you going to do when you get out of school?”
“Beats me. My grandparents want me to learn the shoe business and take over when they retire. Mom and Dad want me to think about law as

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Choosing My Destiny

Many of the students at the school had been given intelligence tests and scored at the lowest and most handicapped level. Yet it was evident that these young people had skills that were relevant to their culture. I recall a Down’s syndrome child who could beat out complex rhythms on the drum, young women who learned to card and weave rugs from foster grandparents, and Yazzie, our survival artist, who could go for days in very severe weather conditions with little clothing or food and would turn up in a distant town days later seemingly no worse for wear. Obviously, the intelligence tests were missing something that was very important.

I was leaning toward business administration, but my sister just graduated with an M.B.A. I don’t want to be just like her. I’ve got more choices than I can handle.”

This conversation is imaginary but typical for juniors and seniors in high school. You do have many options. Because you have spent a period of time studying psychology, it may be beneficial to respond to questions about psychology:

What will I do with what I have learned? Was it worth it if this is the only psychology course I ever take? What careers in psychology are open to me? To help you find answers to these questions, this section offers several descriptions of opportunities in psychology careers. The careers described here, though, are only a few in the vast field of psychology and related fields.

What Are Employers Looking For?

Employers are most likely to hire someone who offers special skills. In psychology, as in many other fields, job choices are limited if you have only a high school diploma. Surprisingly, when you have a Ph.D., you also have relatively few choices, but by that time you have chosen to fine-tune your education and experience for a specific kind of job; you are a specialist.

Those with a bachelor’s degree in psychology may have the most options with the widest array of possible employers. Moreover, psychology is a logical undergraduate major for those planning graduate work in such fields as sociology, social work, law, medicine, or education. Human behavior plays a key role in all of these areas.

Some Career Options

Psychology is both a science and a profession. As a science, psychologists study how people perceive, think, feel, and act. In the professional arena, careers that are based on psychological principles seek to predict how people will act; help people modify their behavior; and help organizations, businesses, and communities to change.

Crisis Hot Line Adviser

**Employer:** a large hospital

**Can you do it?** A person holding this job might be a senior in high school. For **crisis intervention programs**, applicants must complete a comprehensive training program. A county hospital, for instance, might offer...
such training over three weekends. Following training, a typical assignment would involve two 4-hour shifts a week.

**What's involved?** Crisis hot line personnel respond primarily to two kinds of problems. One involves the immediate, possibly life-threatening situation that can arise as a result of a personal or family crisis—perhaps an argument or the unexpected death of a loved one. Drug use, whether from withdrawal or overdose, can also bring about an immediate need for help. The other type of problem is the crisis evolving from long-term stress, such as that experienced in the family, on the job, or in a failure to develop one’s career. Crises like these are not as threatening, but still need to be resolved.

A person handling a hot line will have a list of psychologists and counselors as well as information about a wide array of treatment facilities and programs operating in the vicinity. This job requires being able to calm the caller, identify his or her problem, and help that caller to see the wisdom—once the immediate crisis has been dealt with—of contacting the most appropriate agency or professional for long-term follow-up.

**Word Processor Salesperson**

**Employer:** a local computer dealer

**Can you do it?** People with an interest in psychology are likely to have a higher-than-average interest in behavior—both theirs and others. That interest, even if backed only by a high school diploma, is a vital element of the successful salesperson. One report suggests that the best salespeople are motivated by the need for status, control, respect, routine, accomplishment, stimulation, and honesty. With those needs met, a salesperson will feel happy regardless of level of education. A basic understanding of people’s driving forces—their needs for achievement, affiliation, and safety—is but one aspect of psychology that would aid someone seeking a career in sales.

**What’s involved?** The key requirement may be experience. One psychologist has suggested that you cannot educate someone to be good in sales, but sensitivity to others can be improved by training. You must also be persistent, skillful at language, able to query prospective customers, and able to relate their needs to those answered by the product you are offering.

**Mental Health Assistant**

**Employer:** a senior citizen service center

**Can you do it?** This is a new career field, usually requiring at least an associate degree. An associate degree is...
Linda L. McCarley, an art therapist, is founder and director of the Art Therapy Institute in Dallas, Texas. She helps people create drawings, paintings, sculptures, and other art forms that provide a glimpse into their inner world.

How does art therapy work? Have you ever felt better after expressing yourself with music, dance, drama, or art? That is because words may not adequately express some of your deepest feelings or life experiences. Artmaking provides another avenue of self-expression, helps release tension, and is known to be life enhancing. As we can see by studying the images etched on the walls of caves dating back to ancient times, people have always relied upon imagery to express their most significant life experiences. The art made by people throughout history enriches our understanding of those people.

Similarly, art therapists gain an understanding of their clients through the process of making art in therapy. Art therapists set the stage for self-discovery and healing by facilitating their clients’ creative expressions.

Profiles In Psychology

Linda L. McCarley
1946–
“Artmaking opens windows to the inner world.”

Linda L. McCarley
1946–
“Artmaking opens windows to the inner world.”

awarded after a two-year course preparing for paraprofessional occupations in nursing homes, community mental health centers, centers dealing with mental retardation, or even special-education centers for the variously disabled in public schools.

What's involved? Typically supervised by a staff psychologist, an assistant helps with or conducts admission interviews. He or she may be responsible—under supervision—for administering various psychological tests, either to new patients or to assess the progress of those already admitted.

Personnel Director

Employer: a large department store, for example

Can you do it? The successful applicant is likely to have a bachelor’s degree in psychology, having concentrated on courses involving interviewing, test construction and interpretation, statistics, and law. Such a person might also have taken a minor in management courses in a university’s College of Business Administration. He or she would stress organizational and quantitative skills. This is not an entry-level job, however. Some prior experience with the employer’s policies is a definite requirement.

What's involved? A personnel director may participate in a wide array of activities, depending on the nature and interest of his or her employer. This person’s responsibility would include some involvement in the decisions to hire and fire, especially for the support staff in an organization. Such a person might also develop programs to improve or maintain staff skills in sales, interpersonal sensitivity, or any other area involved in conducting the company’s business.
School Psychologist

**Employer:** a city school system

**Can you do it?** A master’s degree is a must for this position; an undergraduate major in psychology is desirable. In addition, most school psychologists must be licensed or certified in their state of employment, which involves taking a test.

**What's involved?** In bigger districts, you might stay in one school, but many school psychologists divide their time among a number of schools. They usually work with children experiencing the normal array of problems in school. A school psychologist might give reading, aptitude, interest, or intelligence tests and must be skillful in interpreting them. At other times he or she might work directly with the children or young adults in school or with the families of those students.

Clinical Psychologist

**Employer:** self-employed, government, business, hospital, prison, or nonprofit organization

**Can you do it?** To use this title in most states requires a Ph.D. (a Doctor of Philosophy) or a Psy.D. (a Doctor of Psychology). The Psy.D. is a degree developed in the 1970s. In a Psy.D. program, a student gains skill in psychotherapy, undergoing intensive training in testing, interviewing, and giving supervised therapy.

**What's involved?** A practicing clinical psychologist is often self-employed. Thus, required skills include those needed to run any small business, in addition to knowledge of testing and practical experience with the limits and strengths of various forms of therapy. He or she must develop working relations with other clinicians in the area—psychiatrists, medical doctors, and other contacts in local hospitals and mental health facilities. From such sources come the patient/client referrals that are vital to one’s success as a psychotherapist.

A typical day might involve 8 to 10 hours in various stages of psychotherapy with different individuals. The hours have to be offered at times when clients are free to visit, so this may not be a traditional 9-to-5 job. Other types of therapy a clinical psychologist might offer are group therapy or consultation with other therapeutic organizations, such as Alcoholics Anonymous. It is also possible, of course, to utilize the same skills as a clinical psychologist in a state-supported mental hospital, a Veterans Administration hospital, or a community mental health center.

Consumer Psychologists study the processes people go through as they purchase goods and services. Organizations hire them to research and answer questions such as “What do consumers think of us?” and “How can we better serve our customers?”

**Why might consumer psychologists be involved in employee training?**

Human Factors Engineering

Human factors engineers, or engineering psychologists, help design machines and equipment, such as computer systems, automobiles, office equipment, and household appliances, to match human abilities and limitations. Their goal is to create equipment that can be operated efficiently and safely. Human factors engineers draw on physics, anatomy, psychology, sociology, and contributions from teachers and communications experts to analyze and solve problems. Consider this example: Why is the gas pedal on the right side of your car’s floor rather than on the left? The reason is for more efficient use. Most people are right-side dominant and use the gas pedal more than the brake.
Consulting Psychologist

Employer: a management consulting firm

Can you do it? A Ph.D. is required for this job. Such a person might spend graduate school in an industrial/organizational psychology program learning management practices, testing strategies, interpersonal behavioral strategies, and intervention techniques in complex organizations.

What’s involved? By the very nature of his or her job, a consultant must offer an array of skills not normally represented among the full-time employees of companies that hire consultants. Thus, a consultant’s job tends to be short term. A consultant might, for instance, advise a company’s top management on how to take human performance limits into account in the design of a control board for a nuclear power plant. He or she might be involved in all aspects of the design of an interstate highway—signs, bridges and crossover devices, and lane-flow control.

Future Psychology Career Options

As psychologists in every specialty area meet new challenges, new areas of psychology begin to develop. Often a new area of psychology develops as a result of a merging of other areas. For example, the relatively new area of health psychology combines aspects of physiological, social, counseling, and clinical psychology. Health psychologists focus on the role the psychological functions of an individual play on the health of that individual. A health psychologist might research the origins of obesity and try to find and apply effective treatments. A health psychologist might also deal with how stress is related to illness.

Did You Know?

Postwar Psychology The demand for the services of counseling and clinical psychologists always increases dramatically toward the end of a war. This occurred at the end of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War. Counseling psychologists are needed to help servicemen and women adjust to civilian life, shift war-industry workers, and rehabilitate the wounded and emotionally disturbed war veterans.

Assessment

1. Review the Vocabulary What types of situations does a crisis intervention program handle?

2. Visualize the Main Idea Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list a possible psychology career under each discipline.

3. Recall Information What qualities are most employers seeking in employees?

4. Think Critically How might a degree in psychology help you design a popular Web page or market yourself as an up-and-coming actor?

5. Application Activity Explore your long-term goals by outlining a possible educational and career path that you might follow. In your outline be sure to indicate your career goal and how you plan to achieve that goal. Explain why you have selected that goal.
**Parapsychology**

**Period of Study:** 1882 and 1975

**Introduction:** Scientists sometimes investigate behavior or events that seem to have fantastic origins. In psychology, this area of study is known as parapsychology, which means “alongside psychology.” Parapsychology is not considered to be in the mainstream of psychology, but its controversial issues have attracted many people. Parapsychologists suggest that humans possess senses other than the known seven—vision, hearing, taste, smell, touch, balance, and body senses. People skeptical of this suggestion point to the fact that the evidence supporting parapsychology’s claims never stands up to rigorous testing.

**Hypothesis:** Parapsychology’s advocates often state their claims in such a way that they are not subject to disproof; in other words, the claims are not testable, scientific hypotheses. As a result, many investigators approach these claims by trying to eliminate all other reasonable explanations for the observed behaviors.

**Method:** In 1882, scientists established the first organization to study parapsychology, the Society of Psychical Research, in London. The American version of this society was formed in Boston three years later. These organizations focused on mediumship, or communication with those who have died. As time passed, other phenomena began to be studied, such as telepathy (the ability of people to communicate without using ordinary senses), clairvoyance (the ability to experience an event without physically being there), and psychokinesis (controlling objects with the mind).

Perhaps the most famous attempts to demonstrate psychokinesis were made by Uri Geller. Geller claimed he could bend and break metal objects by using his mind. On nonscientifically controlled occasions, Geller did appear to bend or break objects without touching them. In 1974, psychologists filmed several encounters with Geller. In one instance, Geller unbalanced a precision scale, and in another, he appeared to bend a steel band. Many people believed Geller really did all this with psychokineti power; however, skeptics debunked Geller’s claims.

**Results:** The events surrounding Geller were highly controversial; for him, they were highly profitable. He began making appearances in various locations, bending spoons or similar objects. He eventually received an invitation to appear on national television, but when it was time to perform, Geller failed to deliver. It was discovered that he had access before all of his performances to the objects he was hoping to bend. On television, however, his personal set of objects had been switched with a new set, and Geller was left to claim that something was blocking his amazing “abilities.”

Geller’s claim that his abilities were blocked illustrates one difference between science and belief. Scientists accept the results of well-designed tests, whether their hypotheses are supported or not. Geller rejected the disconfirming observations, adding a vague explanation after the fact to explain unsatisfying results. The effects allegedly produced by parapsychological phenomena have much simpler explanations—sleight of hand or prior manipulation to bend spoons, hidden magnets to deflect compasses, and the like. Perhaps breakthroughs will occur in the study of parapsychology. However, for now, healthy skepticism prevails.

**Analyzing the Case Study**

1. What is parapsychology?
2. What abilities did Geller claim to have?
3. Critical Thinking Do you believe that some people have parapsychological abilities? Why or why not?
Psychology’s Contributions

Reader’s Guide

Main Idea
Psychology has made many contributions to society by promoting human welfare, clarifying assessment methods, explaining human behavior, and helping humans better understand their world.

Vocabulary
- ACT
- SAT
- forensic psychology
- industrial/organizational psychology
- sports psychology
- visualization
- gerontology

Objectives
- Describe psychologists’ contributions in everyday life.
- Summarize psychology’s challenges for the future.

Exploring Psychology

Misinformed
A few years ago, a psychology professor, famous in his field for developing new experimental and statistical methods, got into a taxi. He started a friendly conversation with the driver and when asked what he did for a living, the professor replied that he was a psychologist. “Oh yeah? My sister went to see a psychologist,” replied the driver. “She’s really a nut-case. Hey wait, can you read my mind? I’d better be careful what I say!” The professor reports that he now replies to such questions by saying that he is a “research scientist.”
— from Opportunities in Psychology Careers by Donald E. Super and Charles M. Super, 2001

Although most people seem to have an accurate idea of what doctors or lawyers do, many people do not realize what psychologists do. These people probably do not realize, then, the many contributions to life that the science of human behavior has produced.

PSYCHOLOGY’S ROLE IN MENTAL HEALTH

Of all of psychology’s contributions, perhaps its most significant is the development of forms of professional helping, including psychotherapy. An early step forward came in the 1790s through the pioneering efforts of Philippe Pinel, a French physician and a founder of psychiatry. Pinel unchained patients who were held in mental wards, some of whom had
been restrained for more than 20 years. Pinel argued against the prevailing belief that the mentally ill were possessed by demons. Moreover, he thought mental illness could be treated. Mainly due to his efforts, France became a leader in improving conditions for the mentally ill.

Despite the progress in France, more than half a century passed before similar efforts were exerted in the United States. After discovering that the mentally ill were being jailed along with criminals, teacher and social reformer Dorothea Dix (1802–1887) became the chief spokesperson for reform. Her personal crusade in the 1840s aroused interest in the problems of mental illness and led to more enlightened treatment of the mentally ill in Canada and Great Britain, as well as in the United States.

A former mental patient, Clifford Beers (1876–1943) became the guiding force in the early growth of the modern mental health movement. Beers’s own account of his illness and recovery, *A Mind That Found Itself* (1908), first published nearly 100 years ago, has motivated many concerned individuals to promote better psychological care in communities, in schools, and in hospitals. The book set into motion Beers’s plan to improve conditions in mental hospitals. In 1908 Beers founded the Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene, the first organization of its type. In its charter, the Connecticut Society pledged to eliminate restraints on patients, improve standards of care for the mentally retarded, prevent mental disorders, preserve mental health, and provide information on mental illness to the public.

**PSYCHOLOGY’S ROLE IN TESTING**

Most students are given IQ tests or other tests at an early age. Psychologists have played a leading role in devising and updating these tests, as well as other tests in higher education that assess personal skills. Many of you have taken or will take one or both of the two major standardized college entrance exams: the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Testing Proficiency Examination Program (ACT). Developed in 1959, the current ACT places greater emphasis on scientific concepts and abstract reading skills and less emphasis on factual material than the earlier version. Nearly 1.2 million high school seniors take the ACT each year. The SAT, taken by about 1.5 million high school seniors annually, was redesigned in 2005 and now assesses critical reading, math concepts and reasoning, and development and expression of ideas in writing.

**ACT:** a standardized test that consists of four assessment tests that measure academic development

**SAT:** a standardized test that is an admission requirement at some colleges; the test measures verbal and mathematical reasoning and writing abilities
PSYCHOLOGY’S ROLE IN EVERYDAY LIVING

With more than half of all mothers and an even higher percentage of fathers working outside the home, day-care and out-of-home nurturing and learning are significant developmental issues. Researchers note that day care appears to have few negative effects on children and actually promotes development of social skills (Bukatko & Daehler, 2004). Children with experience in day care tend to be more assertive and aggressive. Alison Clarke-Stewart (1993) has suggested that this may result from the fact that day-care children tend to think at a more advanced level but have not yet developed the social skills to smoothly implement their plans for action. Much remains to be learned about how children grow and learn.

Harry Harlow’s work led to the idea that the attachment of children to their caregivers is made stronger by physical contact. That, in turn, led to the demonstration that breast-feeding versus bottle-feeding makes little difference in the parent-child attachment. It is the holding, not the feeding, that is most important.

Psychologists play a role in designing and assessing tools for learning in a variety of media; for example, their understanding of the principles of learning contributed to the development of the PBS series *Sesame Street*. Studies show that almost 60 percent of the preschool children who watch that program at least five times a week can recite the entire alphabet correctly. Originally designed to provide creative ways to educate children with skills required in school—such as spelling, counting, and new words—this program, as the data indicate, has met its goal.

Some of B.F. Skinner’s ideas on learning have been implemented into computer software designs. The ideas of feedback, prior knowledge and knowledge of results, and reinforcement play important roles in games as well as educational programs.

The work of many psychologists led to a clearer understanding about challenges facing men and women as they age. As the American population ages, increased understanding of the abilities of the aged is an area in which psychology must make continued contributions.

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

Contemporary psychology can be grouped into experimental fields and applied fields. Experimental
psychologists use a variety of scientific methods to study human and animal behavior. Applied psychologists put knowledge of psychology to work solving human problems. Yet this distinction is not always sharp. Both experimental and the applied psychologists gather the available evidence and offer the best explanation they find. Both study behavior, and both use similar processes in similar situations. A major difference is that applied psychologists search for immediate solutions, experimental psychologists for long-range answers.
The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional society of psychologists and educators. Founded in 1892, it is the major psychological association in the United States and is made up of more than 50 divisions, each representing a specific area, type of work or research setting, or activity. Some divisions are research-oriented, while others are advocacy groups. Together they are a cross section of the diverse nature of psychology.

Beginning in the 1970s, some members expressed dissatisfaction with the direction of the APA. These critics feared that the APA was becoming a professional instead of an academic organization. As a result, a new organization for academic and science-oriented psychologists, the Association for Psychological Science (APS), was founded in 1988; in five years it grew to a membership of 15,000, with slightly more now. With 150,000 members and affiliates, the APA is the world’s largest organization of psychologists.

Another organization, Psi Chi, a professional and scientific honor society, has chapters on many college and university campuses. Members of Psi Chi hold meetings and help orient psychology students to the field.

According to the most recent survey completed by the APA Research Office (1996, 1999), about 43 percent of those who study psychology obtain master’s degrees in counseling, 32 percent in clinical psychology, and 15 percent in school psychology. The remaining respondents to the survey obtained their degrees in traditional research and other subfields, such as industrial/organizational psychology, general and educational psychology, and experimental psychology (see Figure 21.6).

The United States Bureau of Labor places psychology among the fastest-growing fields into the twenty-first century. In addition, the number of women in psychology has been increasing rapidly. In the early 1990s, women held 60 percent of the civilian jobs in psychology, and women received more than two-thirds of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees conferred during that time. Although psychology is still a male-dominated field, the proportion of women in psychology is greater than in most other scientific disciplines (APA, 2005).

Ethnic minorities have indeed been a minority in the field of psychology. This trend, however, also seems to be changing. In the past decade, a relatively
larger number of doctorates have been awarded to members of minority groups. The increasing diversity of the field of psychology is important. As diverse people enter the field, they offer new perspectives on issues of psychology and behavior. Although new perspectives can be controversial, they pave the way for scientific advancement (Super & Super, 2001).

**Fields of Psychology**

**Forensic psychology** is a branch of applied psychology that studies and makes practical suggestions about the workings of the law. The work of psychologist Elizabeth Loftus has played a pivotal role (see Chapter 10). Many forensic psychologists study criminal behavior. Still others do work on the reliability of eyewitnesses, the effects on children who appear in court, counseling victims, and the jury selection process. A lawyer-psychologist often has both a Ph.D. and a law degree (Hofer, 1991).

Work and the working environment are the provinces of **industrial/organizational psychology**, or, as the field is often called, organizational psychology (Schneider et al., 2005). Psychologists in this field apply their findings to help businesses and industries operate more efficiently and humanely through improving methods of selection and training, and developing new organizational and management strategies. Other industrial/organizational psychologists concentrate on such issues as labor-union relations, rules defining harassment, job satisfaction, and worker motivations and incentives.

**Sports psychology**, a field that developed during the 1980s, is an important part of training for many amateur and professional athletes. Sports psychologists apply the principles of psychology to sports activities. Some focus on maximizing athletic performance through **visualization**—mentally rehearsing the steps of a complete, successful performance—improving concentration or relaxation or reducing negative thoughts that may interfere with performance. Other areas of study include the psychological and physiological benefits of sports participation, violence, ethics in sports, and the design of safe equipment (Durkin, 1991).

**The Challenges for Psychology**

Social change, urban problems, early learning, the neural bases of behavior, psychology and minorities, and the reduction of violence are psychology’s challenges today. One way to determine future directions of psychology is by analyzing the trends of age in the population. The average age of the citizens in North America is going steadily upward; there are more people over age 65 in the United States and Canada now than at any time in the history of either country. That creates new problems for psychologists to study and new careers in both research and service. It also suggests a growing specialty in the field of developmental psychology—**gerontology**, the study of aging.
At the other end of the age spectrum are a different set of factors that may impact future jobs for psychologists. Consider the traditional killers of children—measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, mumps, tuberculosis, and polio. Assuming a child has had his or her proper vaccinations, all of these problems are gone. The top three killers of children and adolescents in our society now are accidents, violence, and drugs. These are not physiological or medical problems like our old enemies, they are psychological or behavioral problems. Many of the dangers that face society today are rooted in social problems; that is, they can be solved only through changing behavior and attitudes of individuals and communities.

Where Do You Go From Here?

As you come to the end of this textbook, it is important to consider not only the future of psychology but also how psychology plays a role in your future. Whether you choose further education and a career in psychology or not, you should not stop thinking critically about and seeking to explain your behavior and the behavior of others.

The information presented in this textbook does not represent the absolute truth. Psychology is a science—it is a process of trying to understand the world around us. As you encounter articles in newspapers and magazines concerning psychology, try to read them critically. Read the material, think about it, and question it. Analyze the evidence and the author’s conclusions. Remember, though, that all conclusions are tentative. Ask yourself: Are there better ways to approach this issue or question? Use what you have learned in this course to determine your own hypotheses and theories and to critically analyze what you read, hear, and experience every day.

1. **Review the Vocabulary**
   What do sports psychologists do?

2. **Visualize the Main Idea**
   Using a graphic organizer similar to the one below, outline the challenges psychologists face.

3. **Recall Information**
   Why must psychologists study aging?

4. **Think Critically**
   Consider what you have learned in this psychology course. What information will be most useful to you during your lifetime? Why? In what types of situations during your life do you think you will use this information? Explain.

5. **Application Activity**
   Visit a large bookstore and browse through the titles of books dealing with psychology. What topics seem to be the most popular? Which books seem to be the most helpful? Which books seem most interesting to you? Why? Based on your observations, forecast several topics that could result in a popular psychology book.
Psychology has made many contributions to society in the past. Its place in the future is secure because it helps people resolve issues and problems. The field of psychology is among the fastest-growing in the twenty-first century.

### Section 1  Careers in Psychology

**Main Idea:** Human behavior plays a key role in many areas of study. Studying psychology can prepare you for many career opportunities.

- A bachelor’s degree in psychology affords many options with a wide array of possible employers.
- As a profession, careers that are based on psychological principles seek to predict how people will act; help people modify their behavior; and help organizations, businesses, and communities change.

### Section 2  Psychology’s Contributions

**Main Idea:** Psychology has made many contributions to society by promoting human welfare, clarifying assessment methods, explaining human behavior, and helping humans better understand their world.

- The most significant contribution of psychology is the development of forms of professional helping, including psychotherapy.
- Psychologists have played a leading role in devising and updating educational testing programs.
- The study of psychology has implications for everyday living, especially in the areas of raising children, improving learning, and understanding the process of aging.
- The common link in careers in psychology is the desire to understand behavior.
- Psychology can be grouped into experimental fields and applied fields.
- Experimental psychologists use a variety of scientific methods to study human and animal behavior.
- Applied psychologists put knowledge of psychology to work solving human problems.
- According to the United States Bureau of Labor, psychology is among the fastest-growing fields in the twenty-first century.
- The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional society of psychologists and educators.
- The American Psychological Society (APS) is an organization for academic and science-oriented psychologists.
- Fields of psychology that have potential for future growth include forensic psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and sports psychology.
- Many problems that face society today, such as violence, drugs, and AIDS, require behavioral solutions.
Recalling Facts
1. Explain the findings of research about the effects of day care on children.
2. Explain the projections for the elderly population in the twenty-first century. How does this impact psychology?
3. Using a diagram similar to the one below, list the similarities and differences in the work of applied psychologists and experimental psychologists.

![Diagram of similarities and differences between Applied Psychology and Experimental Psychology]

4. List three organizations for psychologists and/or students of psychology.
5. Identify two careers that require a background in psychology and briefly describe the careers.

Critical Thinking
1. Analyzing Concepts Define job satisfaction in your own words. Do you think it is possible to measure job satisfaction? Explain.
2. Evaluating Information Do college admission tests really predict success in college? Why or why not?
3. Synthesizing Information There are many types of mental health professionals. What common characteristics do they all share?
4. Making Inferences Name three jobs in psychology that you think will offer good opportunities for employment and explain why. Name three jobs that you think will offer few opportunities and explain why.
5. Comparing and Contrasting Compare and contrast the educational requirements and the responsibilities of a crisis hot line adviser, a mental health assistant, and a consulting psychologist.
Psychology Projects

1. Psychology’s Contributions Find out about the historical treatment of psychological problems. You might focus on the treatments used in the Middle Ages and in the early nineteenth century. Share your findings in an oral report.

2. Psychology Today and in the Future In recent years, astronauts in the U.S. space program have spent extended time in space in cramped and crowded quarters. A recent field of psychology is space psychology. Psychologists in this field study the behavioral challenges of spaceflight. Find out about this field and the kinds of issues it addresses. Present your findings in an informational pamphlet.

Technology Activity

One of the major contributions of psychology is in the designing and assessing of tools for learning. Find examples of educational computer software. Find out what approach to learning is incorporated in the software—feedback, reinforcement, and so on. Evaluate the effectiveness of the software.

Psychology Journal

Review your journal entry. Do you feel optimistic or pessimistic that those problems can be solved? Why or why not? In what specific ways might psychology help solve these problems? Write answers in your journal.

Building Skills

Interpreting a Graph Job satisfaction—studied by industrial/organizational psychologists—is an issue for many people. Various factors contribute to job satisfaction. Review the graph, then answer the questions that follow.

1. According to this graph, what three job characteristics do most people find important for job satisfaction?
2. With which job characteristic were people most satisfied? Least satisfied?
3. Select an area on the graph. How might an industrial/organizational psychologist help managers and/or employees in this area?

Practice and assess key social studies skills with Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook CD-ROM, Level 2.

See the Skills Handbook, page 628, for an explanation of interpreting graphs.

Job Satisfaction