WHAT IS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY?

A Career That Makes a Difference
Improving the Lives and Learning of Children and Youth

https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational/ For Secondary School Students
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR CAREER?

Help create effective schools?

Make a positive difference in someone’s life?

Contribute to supportive communities?

Assist families and teachers?

Work with children and/or youth?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A JOB?

Lots of job openings?

Diverse roles and responsibilities?

Good salary and benefits?

Job flexibility and stability?
School Psychology might be the career for you.
MY STORY

- I became a School Psychologist because...

- The thing I love most about being a School Psychologist is...

- The most challenging aspect of being a School Psychologist is...
Who are School Psychologists?

• Highly-qualified professionals with a graduate degree
• Work in schools and related settings
• Provide comprehensive psychological and educational services to diverse students
• Promote children’s learning, positive behavior, and development
• Support students’ social, emotional, and mental health
What do School Psychologists do?
What do School Psychologists do?

• Conduct assessments, counselling, and other mental health and academic interventions
• Work with children and youth individually and in groups
• Collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, and other professionals
• Help schools, families, and communities provide successful outcomes for children
• Engage in research and program evaluation activities
• Advocacy
• Education
What do School Psychologists do?

- Help ALL students, parents, and teachers
- Learning difficulties
- Behavior and attention concerns
- Problems with peers (isolation, bullying)
- Depression and other mental health issues
- Coping with crisis & trauma (natural disasters, war, school violence, abuse, rape)
- Poverty, violence, homelessness, foster youth, loss, grief
- Family issues (divorce, death, substance abuse, military deployment)
- Promote student well-being (social, emotional, mental and behavioural health)
Most School Psychologists work in K-12 public schools
WHERE DO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WORK?

- **86%** Public Schools
- **10%** Colleges & Universities
- **8%** Private Schools
- **7%** Private Practice
- **6.7%** Faith-Based Schools
- **1.6%** Dept. of Education
- **1.5%** Clinics & hospitals

Walcott, Charvat, McNamara, & Hyson (2015)
WHO ARE TODAY’S SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS?

Gender

83% women

16% men

Walcott, Charvat, McNamara, & Hyson (2015)
How to become a School Psychologist

01
GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

02
ATTEND UNIVERSITY

03
PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

04
GRADUATE SCHOOL COURSEWORK
Preparing for graduate school in School Psychology

• **A Bachelor’s degree** with a major in:
  ○ Psychology
  ○ Child Development
  ○ Sociology
  ○ Education or related field

• Volunteer or successful work experience with children and youth may be required
  ○ Camp, YMCA, or mentoring program
  ○ tutoring, after school programs
Preparing for graduate school in School Psychology

- **Masters degree** (M.Sc, M.Ed, M.A.)
  - 2 to 3+ years (some programs and provinces may include a 10 to 12 month internship)
  - Allows for work in schools, hospitals, private clinics
  - Independent practice depends on province
Preparing for graduate school in school psychology

- **Doctorate (Ph.D., Psy.D.)**
  - >90 graduate semester hours
  - 4 to 6+ years (includes one year internship)
  - Allows for work in schools, academia, clinics, research
  - More options for independent practice
Canadian Graduate Programs in School Psychology

- 10 graduate programs in School Psychology in Canada
- Four Ph.D. program accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)
- Some programs offer master’s and doctoral level, others offer master’s level only
- Check out program websites for more details
- [https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational](https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational)
Develop knowledge and skills in **Prevention and Intervention Services for Students and Families** typically including:

- Assessment
- Academic/learning interventions
- Mental and behavioural health interventions
- Counselling
- Consultation
- Instructional support
- Special education services
- Crisis preparedness, response, and recovery
- Family-school-community collaboration
- Cultural responsiveness
Graduate School Coursework

Develop knowledge and skills in **Foundations of Services Needed in Schools** typically including

- Data collection and analysis
- Resilience and risk factors
- Consultation and collaboration
- Diversity in development and learning
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional ethics
- Education law
Getting a Job as a School Psychologist

- School Psychologists must hold a current, valid credential for practice
- Licensure/Registration/Certification varies by province
- Independent practice may require an additional credential
JOB OUTLOOK?

• High demand for school psychologists

• Particular need for professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

• “School psychologist” has been listed in Top 10 among Best Social Services Jobs in U.S. News &World Report.
A GREAT CAREER CHOICE!

- **Positively** impact the lives of youth
- **Help** parents and educators
- **Flexible** school schedule
- **Range** of responsibilities
- **Variety** of work settings
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Questions?

For more information about school psychology visit:

https://cpa.ca/sections/Educational/

www.nasponline.org