



### GRADUATION INFORMATION

Bringing family, how to wear your hood, & graduating with honors



**JOBS IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
WHERE YOU CAN LOOK



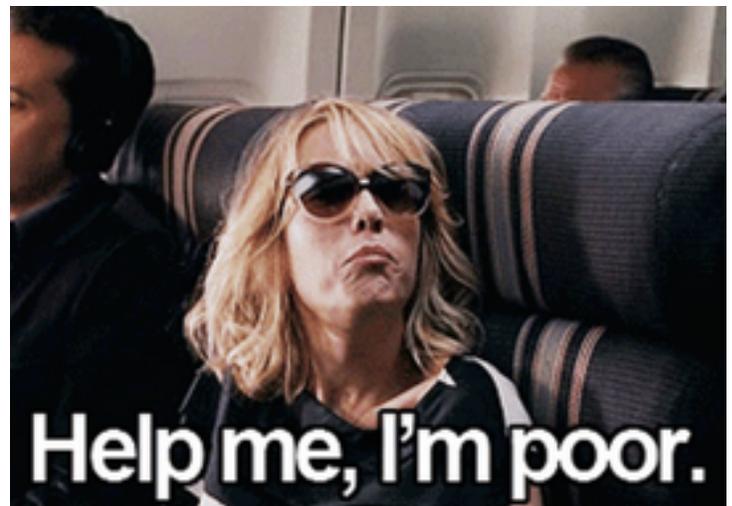
**THE FIELD OF NEUROSCIENCE**

**Spring 2016**



## Jobs in Psychology

The educational journey of the board and a few of our members inspired this issue of Psi Chi. It was written as a way to bring awareness to the opportunities students can utilize throughout their undergraduate career here and to highlight career opportunities in psychology.



# Neuroscience

In broadest terms, neuroscientists are concerned with brain anatomy, chemical composition, and how the brain relates to and gives rise to behavior. Unlike biology or chemistry, neuroscience is not truly a single science, but rather an interdisciplinary effort that draws upon a broad range of methods and fields. In the recent decade particularly, some of the most important insights have come from people of vastly different backgrounds, including degrees in the natural sciences, computer science, engineering, and psychology.

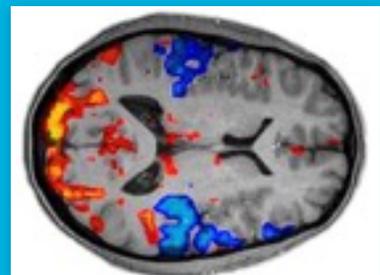
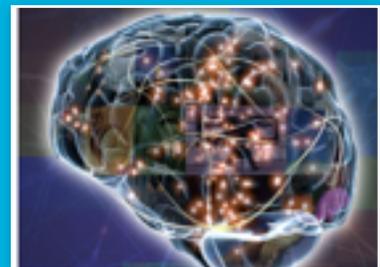
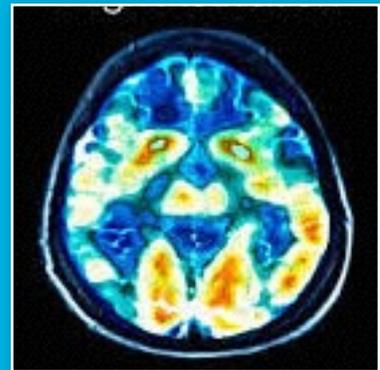
Options for studying neuroscience at the graduate and post-graduate level reflect this diversity of approaches. Behavioral neuroscience is concerned with investigating the neurobiological basis of behavioral phenomenon. This kind of researcher might use scanning technologies, like fMRI, to indirectly measure how certain patterns of brain activity will correlate with actions and emotional states. The insights derived from this field have helped narrow the disparity between the practice of clinical psychology and the underlying neurophysiology. A greater understanding of basic neuroscience has significantly improved therapeutic treatment methods. For example, recent discoveries regarding the neurobiological basis of addictive behaviors have led to improved methods of treating substance abuse.

A computational approach to neuroscience involves the development of computer models and simulations in order to replicate and investigate neural phenomena. This approach draws heavily from computer science, mathematics, and statistical techniques. One area of contemporary research has found evidence of patterns in cortical network dynamics by applying statistical techniques originally developed for thermodynamics applications. A particularly poignant example of this approach is the ongoing BlueBrain project, a vast research initiative which eventually intends to simulate the entire mammalian cortex.

Other approaches, like cognitive neuroscience, investigate the physical basis of higher-level abstract phenomenon, like cognitive states and processes. These researchers seek to narrow the chasm between the physical substrate of the brain and abstract, philosophically-contentious concepts like attention, perception, and even consciousness itself.

By: Kristen Woods

## *The Field of Neuroscience*



# Finding jobs with a Bachelors degree in Psychology



It's not too early to begin applying for jobs in the field of psychology even if you aren't graduating this year. Working in the field part-time while getting your degree makes you a more attractive full-time candidate upon graduation. If you are graduating in May, begin applying to jobs a few weeks before graduation to line up employment for the summer and beyond.

The first place to go when looking for a job is the career center located in the basement of the campus center. They will work with you to edit your resume and connect you to employers in the area. The main way they do this is through Raptor Link which is a portal where you create a profile, upload your resume, and search for jobs. For those who are not graduating, this is also where they list available internship information.

<https://cc.camden.rutgers.edu>

Companies located in our area that hire psychology graduates include Robins' Nest, Genesis, Twin Oaks, Bancroft, and Horizon House. You can search for jobs and internships in these companies online using a variety of search engines. Here are a few that have a lot of results in our area.

<http://www.indeed.com>

<http://www.monster.com>

<http://www.jobs.com>

<http://www.careerbuilder.com>

# Interview with Rutgers Alumni Amanda O'Hara on finding a job with a BA in Psychology



**What was the most influential part of your undergrad experience?** It's hard to pick only one! I did an independent study with Dr. Robrecht van der Wel my final semester. Before that, I only knew on a superficial level what psychology research was about. I learned that psychology is a very broad field and that there are many interesting ways to study human behavior and experiences.

**Are you currently in grad school?** I am not in a graduate program, but I am in a pre-medicine post-baccalaureate program at University of Pennsylvania.

**What do you do for the IRB at Penn?** I provide administrative support for the IRB and assist in the review of research proposals in the social and behavioral sciences. I also assist researchers with their submissions to ensure that they meet regulatory and ethical standards.

**What is a typical day like?** Most of the day involves reading proposals and associated documents (e.g. informed consent forms, advertisements) and communicating with researchers by phone or email. I also coordinate with IRB members, assign proposal for their review, schedule meetings, prepare documents and letters, participate in board meetings, take minutes, and other administrative tasks.

**Why did you choose this job?** I would like to have a career in medicine and research (ideally, as a physician – but if not, I'd like to work in a supportive role in a laboratory) and this is a good way to learn more about ongoing research and capitalize on skills I already have.

**How did you obtain your position?** By stalking job postings on University websites and giving a great interview.

**How many different types of jobs are there in this field of work?** In general, this job is related to research support roles. This can include working with an institution's various regulatory offices (IRB, IACUC, Grant Congruency/Compliance, Health and Safety). Within a laboratory, there are quite a range of positions from laboratory managers to high level administrative support for an academic or clinical department.



Within an IRB itself, there is room for advancement depending on the size of the institution. Entry level jobs are usually administrative assistants; moving up the ladder you can be tasked with reviewing higher risk protocols to dealing directly with government oversight bodies on behalf of the institution. There is even a certification for IRB professionals (CIP).

**What recommendations do you have for students interested in this field of work?** Pay close attention to ethics discussions in your Psychology classes. Do undergraduate research. Good written communications skills are a must. Write a great cover letter. Search for positions on a local University's job website.

# Graduation Information

## Graduation Regalia

Caps and gowns will be on sale in the book store **March 21 to March 23 from 12pm to 6pm**. The cost of the cap and gown is **\$99** and the tassels as **\$12** each. If you are a psychology major your hood (the thing that goes around your neck and drapes down your back) should be white signifying Bachelor of Arts. The people receiving a Bachelor of Science will be yellow. When you receive your cap and gown, be sure to hang it up to let the wrinkles fall out. I also suggest looking at websites (listed below) on how to properly wear your regalia (**especially the hood**).

<https://www.herffjones.com/resource/how-to-wear-your-cap-and-gown/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtONqQPp-xI>



## Graduating with Honors

The most important part of graduation day is celebrating your achievements. There are several ways to earn honors. Arguably the most important are overall **Cum Laude** honors which is determined by GPA. Cum Laude is 3.5 to 3.74. Magna Cum Laude is 3.75 to 3.89. Summa Cum Laude is 3.9 to 4.0. For graduating with one of these honors, you get a cord (rope that goes around your neck). In this instance, all the cords look the same. They can be purchased from the bookstore the week leading up to graduation or at graduation. If you plan on buying them at graduation however you will need your ID which may be annoying to carry with you during the ceremony since there will be no where for you to store your stuff. Most importantly you will be recognized for this when they call your name when you walk across the stage. For example, the speaker would say “Jane Doe, Summa Cum Laude, also with a degree in criminal justice”.

The psychology department doesn't offer an honors program (such as the one for political science). Instead, you can earn honors through applying for **Psi Chi**. The requirements are listed below. Once inducted you can order cords through our website. Please apply sooner rather than later as we are already planning for induction in May. If you will meet the requirements at the end of this semester please email me at [brennaastone@gmail.com](mailto:brennaastone@gmail.com) so I know to include you in the headcount.



## Decorating your Cap

Another benefit of buying your cap and gown early is that you have extra time to decorate your cap. There are tons of tips and examples online especially on Pinterest. I've included some of my favorites below.



# Graduation Day

## Check in

Graduation will take place on **May 19th at 6:00 pm** at the BB&T pavilion (formerly known as the Susquehanna Bank Center). The address is 1 Harbour Blvd, Camden, NJ 08103. This year all of Arts and Sciences are graduating together (Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral students) so it is important that you arrive on time. Graduates are to arrive at the pavilion no later than 5:15 and immediately check in with their major. A faculty member will be standing near a sign marked “psychology” with a list of names. From there, you will get in alphabetical order. If you have more than one major you walk with the major that comes first alphabetically.



## Parking

Last year I volunteered at graduation so I have an idea of what to expect and that is a lot of traffic. The graduation ceremonies run back to back so The School of Business and The School of Nursing will be in the BB&T pavilion before we arrive so it may be difficult to find parking directly in front. Last year, Rutgers ran shuttles from Lot 11 as well as the faculty lots to the pavilion. This may be your best bet to avoid traffic when leaving as well. Due to the parking situation, I suggest getting to Rutgers no later than 4:45 to give you time to catch the shuttle (and take pictures in front of the Philadelphia skyline).



## Bringing Family

There are no tickets needed so bring as many people as you want. Before the ceremony prior to ours ends, families for the next ceremony begin lining up outside the door. The doors will not open until the majority of families and graduates from the previous ceremony have left. My suggestion is to bring your family over early with you and have them wait in line to get good seats but don't expect them to get a bunch of seats together. The way graduation works is you walk up the stage on one side then walk across and exit on the other. It may be ideal for your family to split up, half on each side. This way, they can take pictures of you from both angles.



# HOW TO APPLY FOR PSI CHI MEMBERSHIP:

## Requirements for Psi Chi Membership:

### UNDERGRADUATES MUST:

- ▶ be enrolled as a major or minor in a psychology program (or a program psychological in nature)
- ▶ have completed at least 3 semesters of college courses
- ▶ have completed at least 9 semester hours (3 courses) in psychology courses
- ▶ have earned an overall GPA that is in the top 35% of their class in general scholarship (minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4- point scale)
- ▶ have a minimum 3.5 GPA in psychology courses

### GRADUATE STUDENT APPLICANTS MUST:

- ▶ be enrolled in a psychology graduate program
- ▶ have completed at least one full semester of graduate coursework
- ▶ have an overall GPA of at least 3.5 in all graduate courses, including psychology courses\*

### TRANSFER STUDENT APPLICANTS:

- ▶ follow the same requirements as the undergraduate student applicant
- ▶ should complete at least 12 semester hours at the new institution in order to establish a GPA

### TRANSFER STUDENT APPLICANTS WHO ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF PSI CHI:

- contact the Psi Chi faculty advisor at the new institution to complete an online transfer membership form

In order to join, you must qualify for membership and join through the Rutgers-Camden Chapter. The application process is now online at:

<http://memberapp.psichi.org/cfamember/applicationform.aspx>.

The Psi Chi Society one-time membership fee is \$70. Of this fee, \$55 goes to the national office, an \$15 is received by our local chapter. This small fee pays for lifetime Psi Chi membership, a certificate of membership, and a membership card.

\*To find your Overall GPA as well as grades for each course, log in at [my.rutgers.edu](http://my.rutgers.edu), click on the Academics tab, then click on “Your Full Transcript” under the “Get My Grades” button. In the pop-up box, click the radio button for “Full Transcript”.

# Contact Information

## Psi Chi Officers

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