**Neuropsychology Degree Options**

Neuropsychologists (and behavioral neuropsychologists) investigate brain systems and functions and how they relate to behavior. Tasks are designed to study normal brain functions with such imaging techniques as positron emission tomography (PET) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Neuropsychologists tend to work in research and medical settings, given the emphasis on physiology. But some do treat patients.

Clinical neuropsychologists are trained to evaluate and treat people (help them live normal lives), and this is important given the increase in the number of survivors of traumatic brain injuries.

Prospective neuropsychologists typically earn their bachelor’s degrees in psychology, biology, pre-medicine, neuroscience or a similar field of study.

**MA/MS in Neuropsychology**

* Some begin by earning a master’s degree in neuropsychology (but it is not necessary). While you will earn a master’s degree, it is not a terminal degree in this field. Rather, it is a stepping stone to earning your PhD

**PhD in Neuropsychology**

* A doctoral degree in neuropsychology (or clinical psychology) with a neuroscience emphasis is the most common program for those interested in neuropsychology. An alternative is to earn a PsyD in clinical psychology with some additional postdoctoral work in neuropsychology.
* Most degree programs also require the completion of a number of practicums and an internship or mentorship, most likely with a practicing neuropsychologist.
* To practice as neuropsychologist, you must obtain state licensure (each state has its own requirements).

**Alternatives to Graduate Training in Neuropsychology**

* Neuroscience, or the study of the brain and nervous system, is a multidisciplinary major (chemistry, biology, physics and psychology, for example). It is the closest degree option for students who are interested in neuropsychology.