

Do Psychology Students Know the Job Skills they are Gaining?

Mark Allen, Jordan Woodward, Cori Ferguson, Alexa Sterling, and Shawn Bergman



Background & Purpose

Psychology Degree:

- 54% probability of being underemployed in first job
- 38% probability of being underemployed after 5 years in the workforce

Purpose:

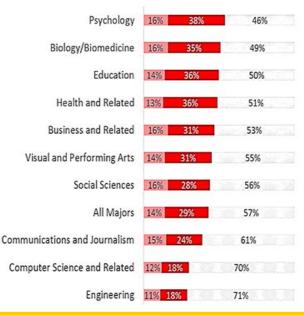
 Assess student level of KSAO recognition in undergraduate psychology courses

Methods

- Assess upperclassmen undergraduate psychology majors on level of KSAOs
- Replicate O*Net survey methodology to rate level of KSAOs learned in undergraduate psychology courses
- Administer a survey to gauge student perceptions of KSAOs gained through psychology curriculum (e.g. critical thinking, analytical concepts)

Escaping Underemployment





Implications

- Assist students in the recognition of transferable knowledge and skills into potential career paths
- Following identification of KSAOs, students can improve understanding of their self-worth and be better prepared to communicate those KSAOs to potential employers
- Use data to create a crosswalk (i.e. tool) to aid students in identifying competencies

References

Burning Glass Technologies and Strada Institute for the Future of Work (2018). The permanent detour: Underemployment's long-term effects on the careers of college grads. Retrieved from https://www.burning-glass.com/wp-content/uploads/permanent_detour_underemployment report.pdf

Halonen, J. S., & Dunn, D. S. (2017). Embedding Career Issues in Advanced Psychology Major Courses. Teaching of Psychology, 45(1), 41–49. doi: 10.1177/0098628317744967

Naufel, K. Z., Appleby, D. C., Young, J., Van Kirk, J. F., Spencer, S. M., Rudmann, J., Richmond, A. S. (2018). The skillful psychology student: Prepared for success in the 21st century workplace. Retrieved from: https://www.pap.org/caresr/resources/guides/transferable-skills.pdf

National Center for Education Statistics. (2019). Digest of Education Statistics, 2017 (NCES 2018-070): U.S. Department of Education, Chapter 3.

