Clinical Psychology

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD

Clinical Psychology is one of the largest and more popular fields in Psychology. Clinical Psychologists deal with the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals with psychological problems. It is often confused with Counseling Psychology which is closely related. The difference between the two areas is in the disorders of the patients they treat. Clinical Psychologists are trained to treat more severe disorders such as anxiety, phobias, bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia. They may help mentally and emotionally disturbed clients adjust to life and may help medical and surgical patients deal with illness or injuries. Some work with patients in rehabilitation who have spinal cord injuries, chronic pain or illness, stroke, arthritis, and neurologic conditions. Others work with people and assist them in dealing with personal crisis. To become a Clinical Psychologist one needs to obtain a PhD from an APA accredited program. These programs are often found at major Universities with a large emphasis on research. Another alternative is to obtain a PsyD, which have a strong practitioner orientation but are more expensive and are less versatile. (Provided by American Psychological Association)

CAREERS

- Counseling individuals in private practice, schools, a College/University Professor or Researcher, Clinical Psychologist for a hospital, or working with rehabilitation patients
- A related alternative is to get a Master’s Degree in a Counseling field to become a Licensed Professional Counselor

RESOURCES

For more information, please visit the following websites:

American Psychological Association, Pursuing a Career in Clinical Psychology

American Psychological Association, Division 12, Society of Clinical Psychology
http://www.div12.org/

Getting into Clinical Psych Grad School
http://clinicalpsychgradschool.org/

Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology
http://cudcp.wildapricot.org/