

0180-Clinical Psychologist

Career Description

Psychology is a diverse discipline, grounded in science, but with many applications to everyday life. Some psychology positions do not provide direct patient care, such as Research Psychologists or Personnel Psychologists. Most psychologists in the Department of Defense (DoD) are employed as staff psychologists, counseling psychologists (e.g., marriage and family therapist, substance abuse, crisis intervention, etc.), and clinical psychologists. Clinical psychology is the branch of psychology concerned with the assessment and treatment of mental illness, abnormal behavior and psychiatric problems. This field integrates the science of psychology with the treatment of complex human problems.

The greatest need in DoD is for Clinical Psychologists. As the number and duration of operational and combat deployments increase, so do the mental and behavioral health difficulties of service members and their families. Service members are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with serious mental health problems brought on by the effects of combat stress. Examples include struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, substance abuse, trauma associated with amputation, and unemployment. Clinical psychology services are provided to the military, beneficiaries and their families at hospitals and clinics worldwide.

Education and Licensure

In DoD, clinical psychologists must have a doctoral degree in psychology from a graduate program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), and which includes completion of an APA accredited internship. After completing an accredited graduate training program, prospective clinical psychologists must also complete a period of supervised training and an examination. Specific licensure requirements vary by state, so students should check with their state's licensing board to learn more.

Salary and Benefits

DoD healthcare opportunities feature competitive starting salaries, and may include a higher special salary rate in certain locations. The benefits package includes comprehensive health and life insurance, transit subsidy, professional development and training opportunities and flexible hours designed to provide the ability to achieve and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

To find more information about current job openings for clinical psychologists in the Department of Defense go to USAJOBS.gov and the [ARMY](#), [AIR FORCE](#), [NAVY](#) websites.

Source: [American Psychological Association](#)

Source: [U.S. Office of Personnel Management](#)