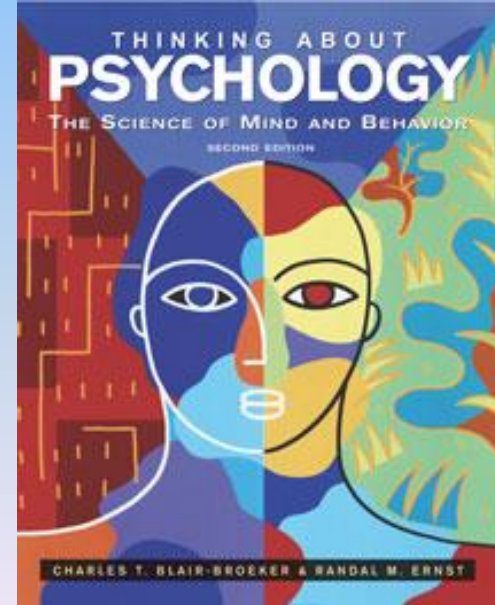


Thinking About Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior 2e

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Methods Domain



Introductory Chapter



Module 01

Introduction and Careers

The Definition of Psychology

Psychology

- The scientific study of behavior and mental processes.
 - Uses scientific research methods.
 - Behavior includes all observable behavior.
 - Mental processes include thoughts, feelings and dreams.

Module 1: Introduction and Careers

Careers in Psychology

Popular Major

- 2nd most popular major in the country
- 70,000 receive degree in Psych each year
- Many majors outside of Psychology require at least an Intro. to Psych course
- Even if you don't plan to major in Psychology in college, receiving a qualifying score on the AP exam can benefit you

Table 1.1

Top 10 U.S. Occupations That Employ People with a Psychology Degree

1. Top- and mid-level managers, executives, administrators
2. Sales occupations, including retail
3. Social workers
4. Other management-related occupations
5. Personnel, training, labor relations specialists
6. Other administrative (record clerks, telephone operators)
7. Insurance, securities, real estate, business services
8. Other marketing and sales occupations
9. Registered nurses, pharmacists, therapists, physician assistants
10. Accountants, auditors, other financial specialists

Source: From *College majors handbook with real career paths and payoffs: The actual jobs, earnings, and trends for graduates of 60 college majors* (2nd ed.), by N. P. Fogg, P. Harrington, & T. Harrington, 2004, Boston: Jist Works.

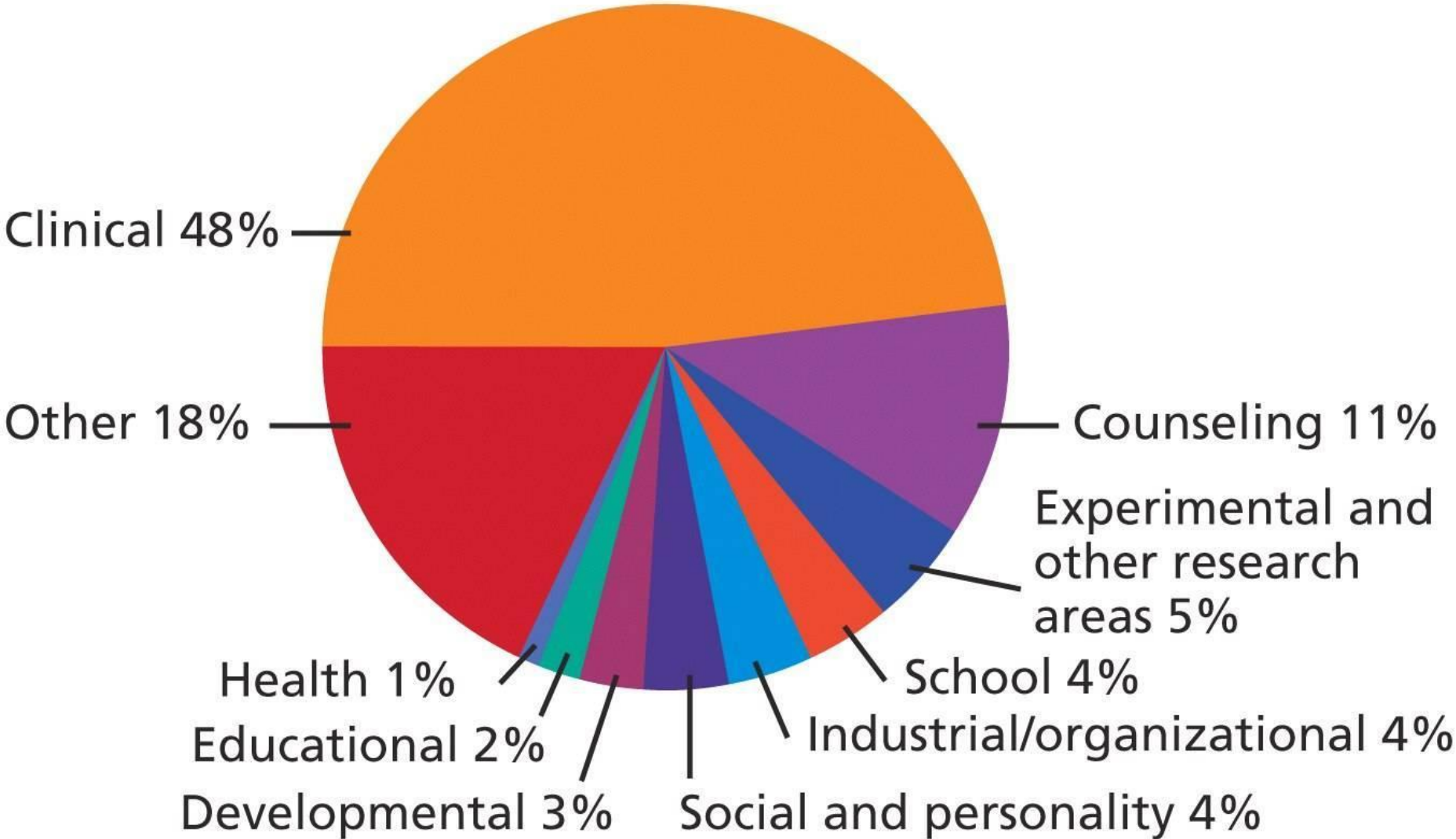
Psychologist

- Need a doctorate graduate degree
- May take 4-6 years to earn a doctorate in a subfield

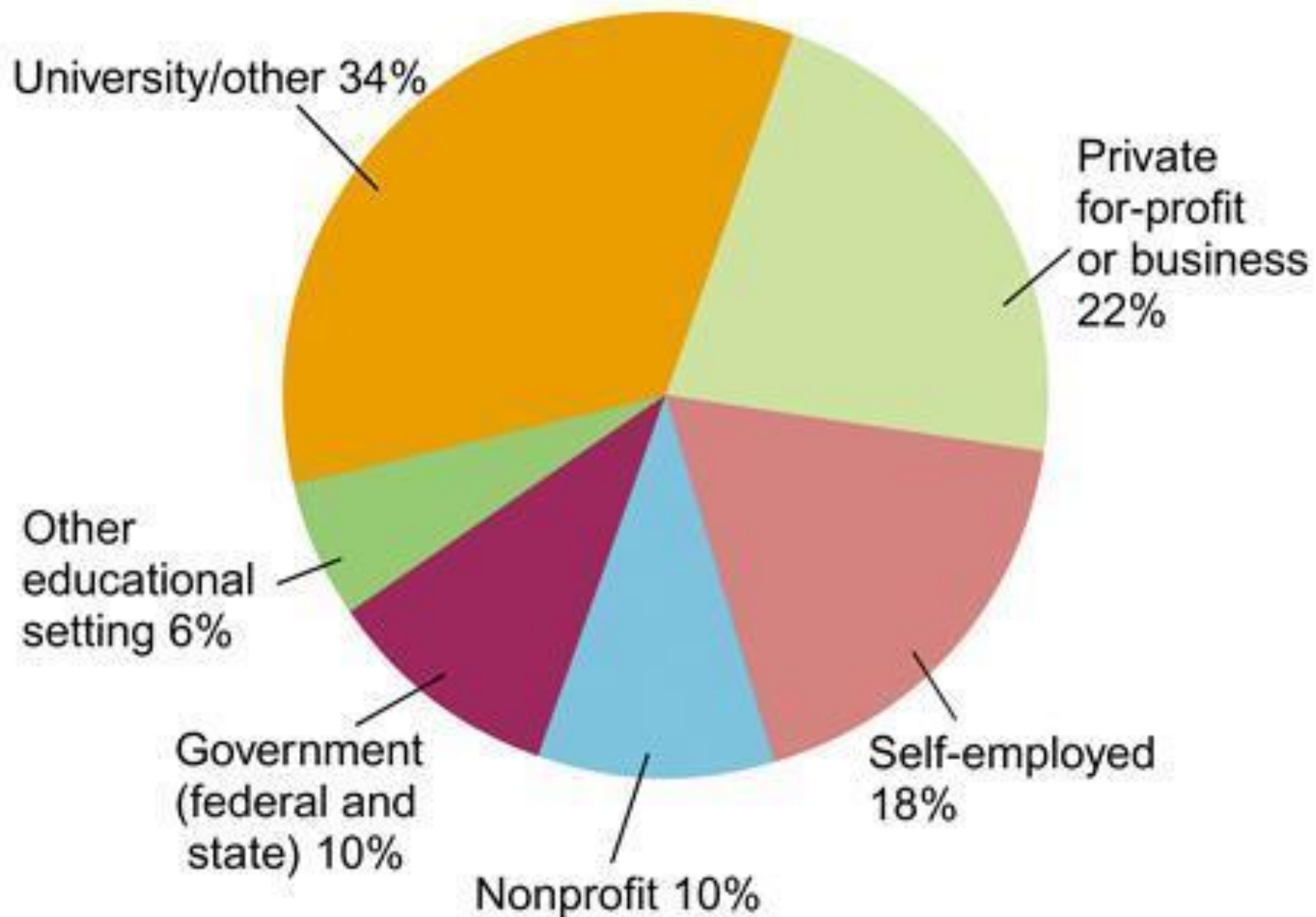
Clinical Psychologist

- Diagnose and treat patients with psychological problems
- Largest number of professional psychologists

Specialty Areas In Psychology



Where Do APA Psychologists Work?



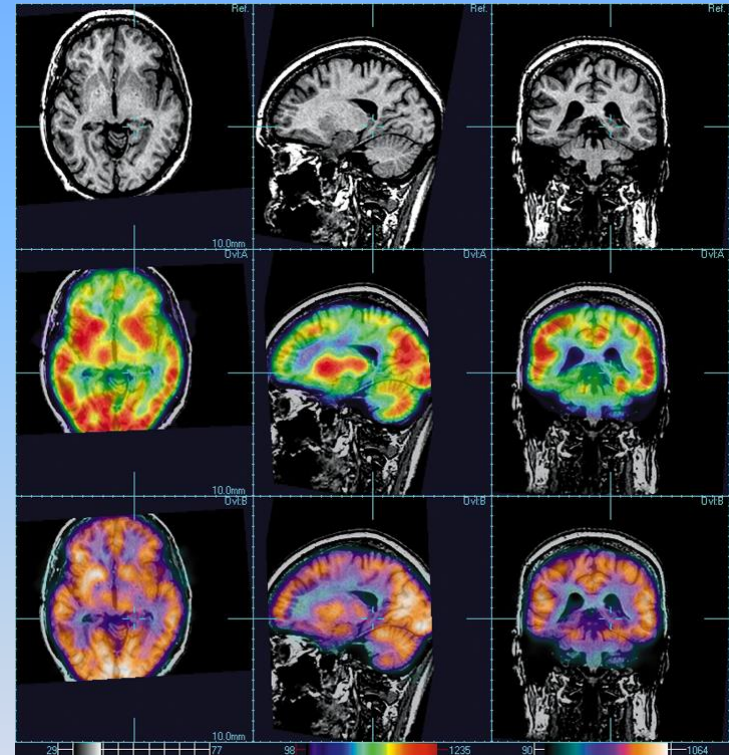
Basic Research

- Pure science or research
- Research for the sake of finding new information and expanding the knowledge base of psychology



Neuropsychologist

- Also called biological psychologists or biopsychologists
- Explore how the brain works
- Most often work in university/college settings



Social Psychologist

- Explore how behaviors, feelings, and beliefs are influenced by others
- Study conformity, attitudes, leadership, prejudice, group behavior, etc.
- Work in the business setting, government, and universities



Developmental Psychologist

- Study the growth or development that takes place from the womb to death
- Work in senior centers, hospitals, day-cares or universities



Cognitive Psychologist

- Study *thought* processes including intelligence, problem solving, attention, decision making, language, etc.
- Work in educational settings and the business world



Experimental Psychologist

- Also called research psychologist
- Specialize in doing research in any of the other subfields
- Work at universities, for the government, or in a business setting



Applied Research

- Research designed to solve specific practical problems



Forensic Psychologist

- Apply law and psychology to legal issues
- Work in correctional settings, law enforcement, and academic settings



Sports Psychologist

- Explore psychological issues in improving athletic performance
- Work for sports teams or in private practice



Educational Psychologist

- Study how humans learn and how to improve the learning process
- Work in school systems, the government, or at universities



Human-factors Psychologist

- Study how people and machines interact at home and in the workplace
- Try to minimize frustration for *individuals* and increase safety and production
- Work in the business world or for the government



Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychologist



- Try to apply psychology to help *entire businesses* and organizations operate
- Might help hire the right people for a given job, suggest ways to promote job satisfaction, or look at how to change the overall work environment to maximize productivity
- Work for the government, business or in academic settings

School Psychologist

- Use psychology to improve the development of children in the school system
- Are involved in assessments (testing)
- Work for school systems, the government or universities



Consumer Psychologist

- Study why people buy certain products and not others
- Work in the business or academic world



Rehabilitation Psychologist

- Help those who have been involved in an accident or have been ill
- May help head injury or stroke victims for example, to help relearn language
- Work in medical rehabilitation centers



Health Psychologist

- Find ways to prevent disease and promote good health
- Work for health agencies, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and universities



Social Worker



- Only need an undergraduate or masters degree in psychology or social work
- Work to improve the lives of others (resolve family problems, help find a job or housing, help w/ substance abuse)
- Work for the government, schools, and residential facilities

Table 1.2**Some APA Divisions by Number and Name**

1. Society for General Psychology
2. Society for the Teaching of Psychology
3. Experimental Psychology
5. Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics
6. Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology
7. Developmental Psychology
8. Society for Personality and Social Psychology
12. Society of Clinical Psychology
14. Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
22. Rehabilitation Psychology
23. Society for Consumer Psychology
29. Psychotherapy
30. Society of Psychological Hypnosis
34. Population and Environmental Psychology
35. Society for the Psychology of Women
36. Psychology of Religion
38. Health Psychology
40. Clinical Neuropsychology
43. Family Psychology
45. Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues
46. Media Psychology
47. Exercise and Sport Psychology
48. Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology Division
50. Addictions

The End