

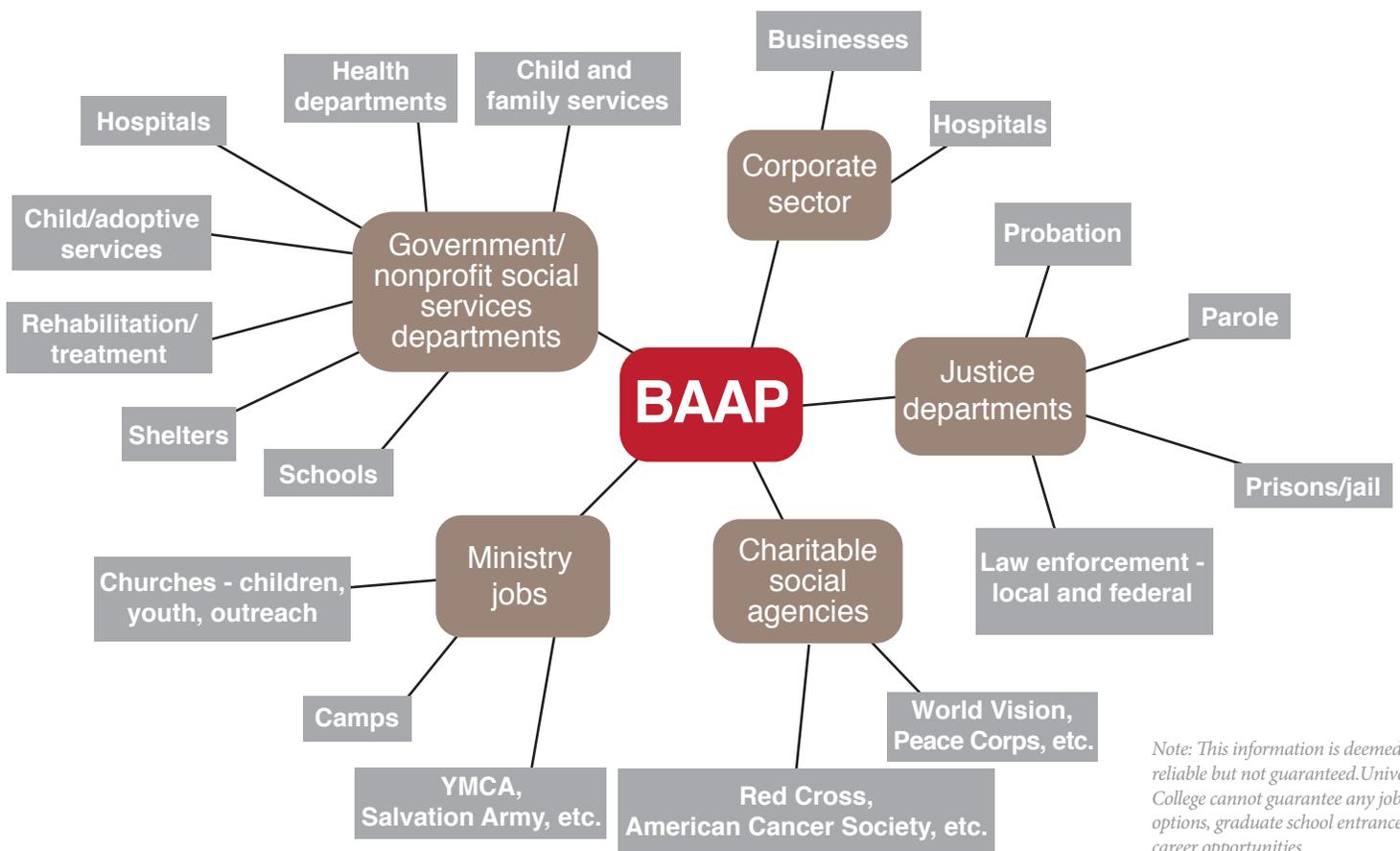
B.A. IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY JOB OPTIONS WORKSHEET



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Offering a wide variety of career opportunities, University College's Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology (BAAP) degree offers two routes for students to pursue.

1. Students may seek entry-level professional positions in ministry, social services, and criminal justice. Some of these jobs have experience and/or certification requirements as well as educational ones. However, the knowledge provided in the BAAP will equip you to better serve in these areas:



Note: This information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. University College cannot guarantee any job options, graduate school entrance, or career opportunities.

2. Students will also gain the foundation for advancement to graduate-level studies.

EMPHASIS AREAS

Most jobs related to the BAAP will have educational requirements listed as “psychology, social work, or related degree.” It allows you to obtain a position that requires a bachelor’s degree in a helping profession. The BAAP emphasis areas give you knowledge in a particular area of the helping profession, which gives you a leg up on other applicants who simply have a “psychology or social work degree.” Note that the degree itself will allow you opportunities in any of the industries listed previously; however, the specialization gives your resume the chance to stand out among others in your field of interest, increasing your marketability for jobs and graduate education. Your emphasis area may also allow you opportunities to transfer credits and reduce coursework requirements for certain graduate school programs.

Applied Pastoral Counseling

The Applied Pastoral Counseling emphasis helps you obtain ministry-related positions in the helping industry. For example, students may work at crisis pregnancy centers, Christian services for children and families, and lay counseling ministries. This is also helpful for those who would like to go on for a master’s in counseling or psychology to obtain counseling licensure, but desire a more Christian emphasis, or a Master’s in Divinity for those interested in chaplaincy.

Clinical Psychology

The Clinical Psychology emphasis is for those interested in the mental health profession. You can either go on for graduate education if you desire licensure as a counselor through a master’s in counseling or psychology, or you can have opportunities to work in the social service or mental health industry where the role requires counseling or assessment skills, such as residential counselors, intake specialists, etc.

Business Psychology

The Business Psychology emphasis gives a foundation for motivating, understanding organizational behavior, conflict management, and gender issues. This foundation would help you look for jobs in human resources, employee support and training, and positions where customer relations are needed such as with insurance, benefits, sales, and customer service. This would also be a good foundation if you want to go on to get a master’s degree in business.

Criminal Behavior

The Criminal Behavior emphasis allows you opportunities for positions such as a probation officer, parole officer, police officer, prison guard, detention center personnel, and similar jobs in justice. Often these jobs require a bachelor’s in “psychology, social work, criminal justice, or related degree.” The Criminal Behavior Emphasis area will acquaint you with criminal behavior, group dynamics (such as gangs), forensics, and conflict management (such as how to defuse an irate inmate). This might even be an area of focus for someone who plans to attend law school. This emphasis may also benefit those interested in higher level government jobs or becoming fluent in a foreign language, especially Spanish and/or Middle Eastern languages (Arabic).

Child & Adolescent Psychology

The Child and Adolescent Psychology emphasis helps you if you want a broad market of working with children and adolescents, rather than a general Human Service emphasis or Clinical Psychology focus. With this emphasis area, you can serve children and adolescents in schools, social welfare, ministry, etc. Foster care and adoption, youth camps, and the YMCA are just a few jobs related to this emphasis.

Cultural Psychology

The Cultural Psychology emphasis gives you a foundation to obtain a job associated with human services working with diverse populations. These jobs could be related to serving international populations in shelters, children and family services, or on a college campus in student services.

Educational Psychology

The Educational Psychology emphasis provides you with specific knowledge related to special needs and educational advocacy, in addition to child, adolescent, and family needs. For example, jobs could include teacher's aides and social service positions in the school system and child welfare. This would also be a good foundation if you want to pursue a master's degree in teaching education, but want job opportunities broadened by having degrees in two fields, rather than getting an undergraduate education degree.

Human Services

The Human Services emphasis is more general and opens up all jobs related to the helping profession—social welfare, health care field, ministry, justice, and businesses. Rather than focusing on a particular people group such as child/adolescent or cultural, or a particular area of employment such as ministry/criminal/ business/education, this allows you to have all these opportunities while still having the edge above others with a clear set of skills for helping others.

General Psychology

The General Psychology emphasis is designed for those who want a broad, general degree that can allow them versatility in the job market, or have a specific list of courses they desire for their own focus and want the flexibility of electives, or those who may be uncertain of their future aspirations.

FINDING YOUR EMPHASIS AREA

To determine an emphasis area, it might be helpful to ask yourself the following questions to help uncover your focus:

1. Is there are particular group of people you would like to serve (children/teens, families, international)?
2. Is there are particular kind of work you would like to do (counseling, case management, business, training)?
3. Is there a particular kind of place you want to work (business, ministry, school, health care, justice system)?
4. Are you looking at the BAAP more for career progression or graduate education? (if graduate school, which area interests you?)

For example, if you want to become a school counselor, you may be conflicted over whether to choose an emphasis in Clinical Psychology, Child and Adolescent Psychology, or Educational Psychology. Each of these seem to apply. So, ask yourself, "What is most appealing about becoming a school counselor?"

- **Is it the educational setting?** If setting is most important, you may choose a Business Psychology, Educational Psychology, or Criminal Justice emphasis area because of WHERE they allow you to work.
- **Is it counseling children/adolescents?** If the clientele is most important, you may choose a Children and Adolescent Psychology, Cultural Psychology, or Human Services emphasis area because of WHO they allow you to serve.
- **Is it being a counselor?** If the work itself is most important, you may choose an Applied Pastoral Counseling or Clinical Psychology emphasis area because of WHAT they allow you to do.

There is no right area to choose, and just because you choose one, doesn't mean it will disqualify you for jobs in other areas. The BAAP degree can still open up a plethora of areas of jobs. The emphasis is an opportunity to expand knowledge, interest, and distinguish yourself when applying for jobs and graduate school.