

Training for Health Psychologists

Most licensed health psychologists hold a doctorate-level (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) degree in psychology. In many cases, health psychologists pursue an undergraduate degree in general psychology and then specialize in health psychology in graduate school. Some programs offer degrees specifically in health psychology. The emphasis in these programs can vary - some focus on preparing students for clinical careers while others emphasize the role of research.

Those who want to be licensed in clinical or counseling psychology must complete a minimum of a one-year internship after earning a doctorate degree. The American Board of Professional Psychology also offers board certification in health psychology.

While a doctorate degree is usually required in order to become a licensed health psychologist, there are some employment opportunities for those with a bachelor's degree or master's degree. Employment at the bachelor's level is limited, but some find work in community mental health offices or correctional facilities. Those with a master's degree enjoy more employment opportunities, although they typically work under the supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist.