

Studying Psychology @ UP

Department of Psychology
University of Pretoria

Presented by: Dr Sonja Mostert



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Faculty of Humanities

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Why should you choose the Department of Psychology?

- The Department of Psychology offers students an environment aimed at supporting student-centred learning. As you embark on your journey in the diverse discipline of psychology, you will explore the workings of the human mind and behaviour, delving into what makes us who we are.
- Psychology is a discipline that spans a wide spectrum of topics, from understanding the inner workings of the brain to exploring the complexities of human relationships. Throughout your studies, you will be exposed to various areas of psychology, including cognitive and biological psychology, psychopathology, social psychology, critical psychology and many more.
- You will have the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions and develop a deeper understanding of the human experience.

The Department of Psychology?

- The Head of Department, **Professor Guse**, welcomes you to explore the undergraduate modules offered in the Department of Psychology. Our dedicated faculty and staff are here to guide and support students on their academic journey. The department brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom and are committed to helping students succeed. We encourage students to take advantage of staff expertise and engage in open dialogues, as staff are here to nurture student curiosity and inspire student intellectual growth.
- The field of psychology is not just about studying others; it's also an opportunity for self-discovery and personal growth. By understanding the intricacies of the human mind, you can gain insight into your own thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, and use that knowledge to become a more empathetic and informed individual.
- We look forward to seeing our students grow and flourish during their time with us.

Welcome to the World of Psychology

Why Study Psychology?

- Studying psychology offers a multifaceted journey into understanding the complexities of the human mind and behaviour. The discipline explores cognition, emotion, and social development that underlie behaviour. Psychology serves as a nexus for various disciplines, drawing insights from neuroscience, biology, sociology, and even philosophy. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a rich and holistic understanding of human nature, offering diverse perspectives to interpret human behaviour.
- The knowledge and skills gained in psychology are highly transferable, applicable across a myriad of fields including healthcare, education, business, and social services. Whether aspiring to become a clinical psychologist, counselling psychologist, researcher or organisational consultant, the principles of psychology underpin diverse career paths.

Why Study Psychology? (continued)

- Psychologists assist people with mental health problems and life challenges. They conduct research that broadens their understanding of psychosocial issues on individual and community levels.
- Psychology ultimately empowers individuals to make meaningful contributions to society by addressing pressing societal issues such as mental health disparities, prejudice, and addiction. By understanding the complexities of human behaviour, students can advocate for positive social change and foster inclusive communities.

What School Subjects are needed

To apply for the BA General:

- The admission requirements below apply to all who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications.

Minimum requirements: Achievement level

- English Home Language or English First Additional Language
- APS (Grade 11) = 30
- APS (NSC/IEB completed) = 28
- **To retain admission, candidates must obtain an APS of at least 28 in the NSC/IEB**

What School Subjects are needed? (continued)

To apply for the BSc Human Physiology, Genetics and Psychology:

- The admission requirements below apply to all who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications.

Minimum requirements: Achievement level

- English Home Language or English First Additional Language
- Mathematics and Physical Sciences
- **To retain admission, candidates must obtain an APS of at least 32 in the NSC/IEB**
- Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS
- Applicants currently in Grade 12 must apply with their final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results
- Applicants who have completed Grade 12 must apply with their final NSC or equivalent qualification results
- Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission

Can I transfer from another Higher Education Institution?

- If you are **transferring** from another university or another degree programme you might be able to transfer some of the modules completed as credits.
- Consult with your student administration on the process to apply for credits.
- **You will submit the following:**
 - Credit application form
 - Academic transcript
 - Study guides/course material of modules completed

Possible Combinations with Undergraduate Psychology Modules

- Numerous disciplines combine well with psychology from first-year to third-year such as:
 - Anthropology
 - Archaeology
 - Criminology
 - Drama
 - History
 - Languages
 - Philosophy
 - Social Work
 - Sociology
- Students who intend to apply for admission into the **BSocSci Honours (Psychology)** programme should include a research module up to third year level such as RES 320 (Research Methodology).

Degrees that include Psychology Modules at Undergraduate Level

- Bachelor of Education [BEd]
(Senior Phase & FET Teaching)
- Bachelor of Information Science [BIS]
- Bachelor of Nursing Sciences [BNurs]
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy [BOT]
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy [BPhysio]
- BA Humanities
- BA Audiology
- BA Humanities (extended programme)
- BA Fine Arts
- BA Fine Arts (extended programme)
- BA Languages
- BA Law
- BA Speech-Language Pathology
- Bachelor of Social Work [BSW]
- BSc Biological & Agricultural Sciences
(extended programme)
- BSc Human Physiology, Genetics & Psychology

Undergraduate Psychology Modules



SLK 110
&
SLK 120

First-Year Psychology Modules:

24 Credits

SLK110: Psychological Perspectives and Personology

12 Credits

This module is a general orientation to Psychology. An introduction is given to various theoretical approaches in Psychology, and the development of Psychology as a science is discussed. Selected themes from everyday life are explored and integrated with psychological principles. This module focuses on major personality theories. An introduction is given to various paradigmatic approaches in Psychology.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.

SLK 120: Biological and Cognitive Processes

12 Credits

This module introduces the student to a basic knowledge and understanding of the biological basis of human behaviour. The module addresses the key concepts and terminology related to the biological subsystem, the rules and principles guiding biological psychology, and identification of the interrelatedness of different biological systems and subsystems. In this module various cognitive processes are studied, including perception, memory, thinking, intelligence and creativity. Illustrations are given of various thinking processes, such as problem solving, critical, analytic and integrative thinking.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.

Undergraduate Psychology Modules (continued)

Second-Year Psychology Modules:

40 Credits

Prerequisites: SLK 110 & SLK 120 (24 credits in total)

SLK 210: Developmental Psychology

20 Credits

In this module human development from conception through adolescence to adulthood is discussed with reference to various psychological theories. Incorporated are the developmental changes related to cognitive, physical, emotional and social functioning of the individual and the context of work in adulthood. Traditional and contemporary theories of human development explaining and describing these stages are studied in order to address the key issues related to both childhood and adulthood.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.

SLK 220: Social Psychology

20 Credits

This module introduces the student to a basic knowledge and understanding of the biological basis of human behaviour. The module addresses the key concepts and terminology related to the biological subsystem, the rules and principles guiding biological psychology, and identification of the interrelatedness of different biological systems and subsystems. In this module various cognitive processes are studied, including perception, memory, thinking, intelligence and creativity. Illustrations are given of various thinking processes, such as problem solving, critical, analytic and integrative thinking.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.



SLK 210
&
SLK 220

Undergraduate Psychology Modules (continued)

Third-Year Psychology Modules:

60 Credits

Prerequisites: SLK 210 & SLK 220 (40 credits in total) and we recommend you take RES 320 in your third-year

SLK 310: Psychopathology

30 Credits

Identification of abnormal behaviour in children based on knowledge of normal childhood development; introduction to the study of various models pertaining to abnormal behaviour; understanding and application of basic concepts in child psychopathology. This module also provides an introduction to psychopathology and symptomatology of adult abnormal behaviour. Terminology, definitions of abnormal behaviour, problems in diagnosis, labelling, and myths regarding abnormal behaviour are discussed. Neurosis as a specific mental disorder is studied critically from a multidimensional perspective, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and social-cultural explanations.

Presented in Semester 1 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.

SLK 320: Social Psychology

30 Credits

This module deals with a community psychological perspective on human behaviour and psychological interventions and also critically explores the contribution of various perspectives in psychology. The module focuses on themes such as definitions of key concepts, principles and aims of community psychology, and the role of the community psychologist as well as the impact of earlier thought frameworks on contemporary perspectives. The implications of these ideas for practical initiatives focused on mental health in communities, are discussed. The module further focuses on critical psychology. Critical psychology is an orientation towards psychology that is critical towards the assumptions and practices of psychology as it is practiced in the mainstream. It attempts to address power issues as they manifest in the practice of mainstream psychology. The focus is on examining how the practice and theories of mainstream psychology contribute to these power issues impacting on marginalised groups.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.



**SLK 310
&
SLK 320**



RES 320

Third-Year Research Module

30 Credits

Prerequisites: Non, but compulsory should you wish to apply for the BSocSci Honours (Psychology) programme

RES 320: Social Research: Methodological Thinking

30 Credits

Identification of abnormal behaviour in children based on knowledge of normal childhood development; introduction to the study of various models pertaining to abnormal behaviour; understanding and application of basic concepts in child psychopathology. This module also provides an introduction to psychopathology and symptomatology of adult abnormal behaviour. Terminology, definitions of abnormal behaviour, problems in diagnosis, labelling, and myths regarding abnormal behaviour are discussed. Neurosis as a specific mental disorder is studied critically from a multidimensional perspective, including intrapsychic, interpersonal and social-cultural explanations.

Presented in Semester 2 for 14 weeks, two lectures per week.

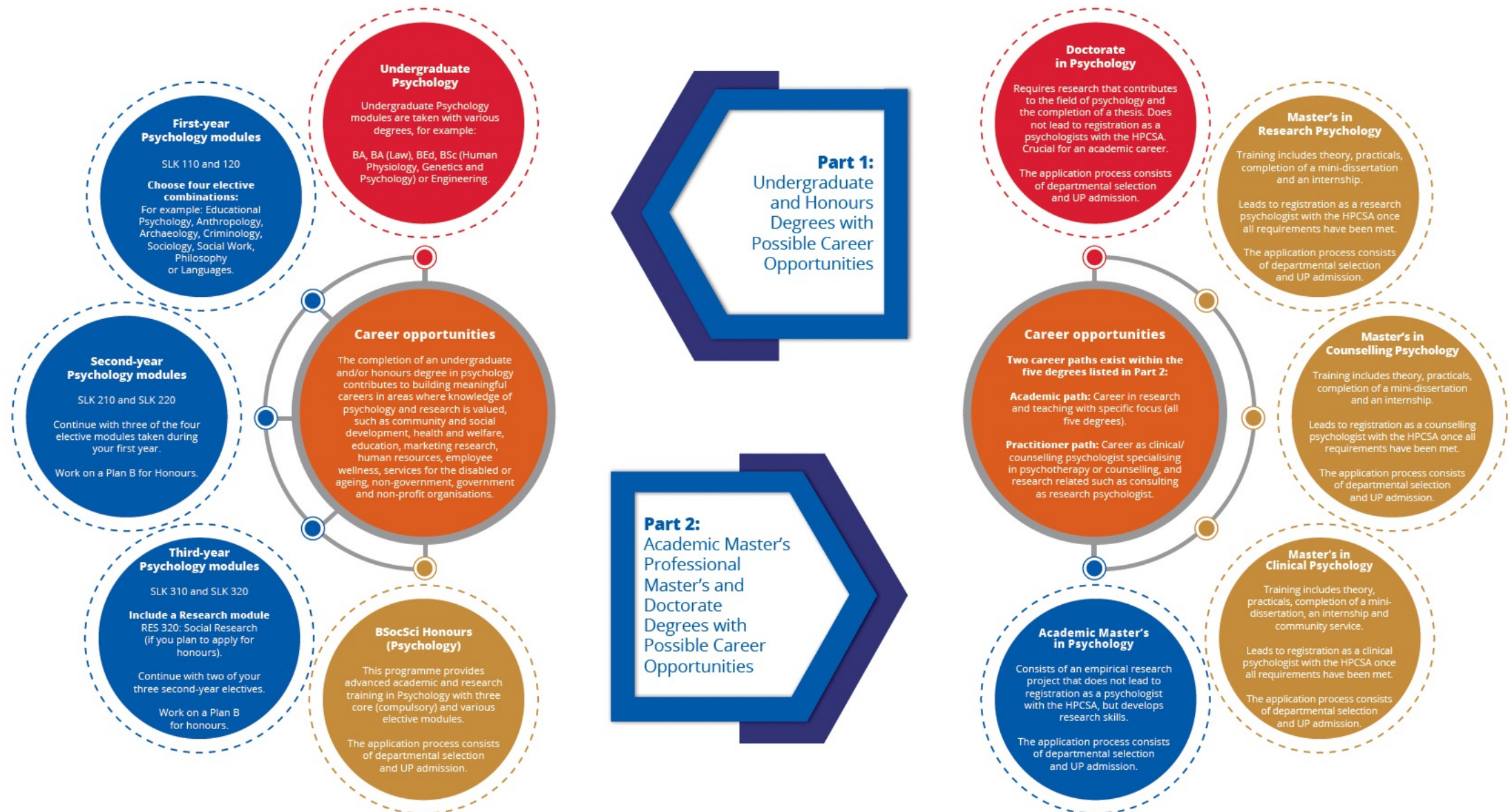
****RES 320** module is a non-credit bearing module required when applying for the BSocSci Honours (Psychology) programme

Career Opportunities

- The completion of an undergraduate and/or honours degree in psychology contributes to building meaningful careers in areas where knowledge of psychology and research is valued.
- Examples are community and social development, health and welfare, education, marketing research, human resources, employee wellness, services for the disabled or ageing, non-government, government and non-profit organisations.



Infographic: Degree & Career Opportunities in Psychology



Undergraduate Degree with Psychology as a major/elective at third year level

- An undergraduate degree in psychology unlocks a diverse array of development opportunities across various sectors.
- Undergraduate psychology modules contribute to building meaningful career opportunities in areas involving people, where knowledge of psychology and research is valued.
- Undergraduate degrees provide foundational knowledge to enter postgraduate programmes for more specialised skills development. This degree is not designed for specific careers but aimed at creating work-ready graduates.
- These skills include the ability to express yourself through academic writing, presentation skills, social skills, time management, problem-solving, decision-making and fundamental research skills and critical thinking.
- Once students have completed their undergraduate degree they can pursue a postgraduate psychology degree.

Pursuing a Career in Psychology

- Students who wish to pursue a career in psychology must complete an Honours Degree in Psychology (such as a BSocSci Honours (Psychology) or a BA Honours (Psychology) and then apply for a Professional Master's in Psychology Degree in either Clinical, Counselling or Research Psychology.

Requirements to submit an application for selection in the BSocSci Honours (Psychology) programme:

- Complete all undergraduate psychology modules (such as SLK 110, 120, 210, 310 & 320)
- Research module on third year level (such as RES 320 or equivalent)
- Consult the Psychology website (<https://www.up.ac.za/psychology>) for the most recent requirements and selection process*

***Subject to change on an annual basis**

Career Opportunities: Professional Master's in Psychology Degrees & Registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa

Master's in Clinical Psychology

Training includes theory, practicals, completion of a mini-dissertation, an internship & community service.

Leads to registration as Clinical Psychologist with the HPCSA once all requirements have been met.

Application process consists of Departmental Selection & UP admission.

Master's in Counselling Psychology

Training includes theory, practicals, completion of a mini-dissertation & an internship.

Leads to registration as a Counselling Psychologist with the HPCSA once all requirements have been met.

Application process consists of Departmental Selection & UP admission.

Master's in Research Psychology

Training includes theory, practicals, completion of a mini-dissertation & an internship.

Leads to registration as a Research Psychologist with the HPCSA once all requirements have been met.

Application process consists of Departmental Selection & UP admission.

Other Postgraduate Career Opportunities:

Academic Master's or Doctorate in Psychology

Master's in Psychology (Academic)

Consists of an empirical research project that does not lead to registration as a psychologist with the HPCSA. However, it will assist in developing research skills.

Application process consists of Departmental Selection & UP admission.

Doctorate in Psychology

Requires research that contributes to the field of psychology and the completion of a thesis.

Does not lead to registration as a psychologists with the HPCSA.

Crucial for an academic career.

Application process consists of Departmental Selection & UP admission.

Career Opportunities with Professional Training

- **Clinical Psychology:** While an undergraduate degree alone does not qualify individuals to practice as clinical psychologists, it serves as a foundational steppingstone for further specialisation. Graduates can pursue postgraduate studies in clinical psychology to become licensed clinical psychologists, providing therapy, counseling, and mental health support in clinical settings, hospitals, or private practice. This requires the **MA Clinical Psychology** degree
- **Counseling and Therapy:** With additional training and certification, individuals can work as counselors or therapists in diverse settings such as schools, community centers, non-profit organizations, or private practice. They may specialize in areas such as trauma counseling, addiction counseling, marriage and family therapy, or career counseling.

Career Opportunities with Professional Training (continued)

- **Human Resources:** Many organisations value the insights and skills of psychology graduates in understanding human behaviour in the workplace. Graduates can pursue careers in human resources, talent management, organisational development, assisting organisations in recruitment, training, employee well-being, and organisational effectiveness. This requires a professional degree in **MCom Industrial Psychology, MCom/MPhil Human Resource Management** or **MPhil Labour Relations Management** or the **PhD Industrial Psychology, Organisational Behavioural** or **Human Resource Management** offered in the Faculty of Economic & Management Sciences.
- **Education and School Psychology:** Psychology graduates can work in educational settings as school counselors, educational psychologists, or special needs educators. They support students' academic, social, and emotional development, conduct assessments, and provide interventions to enhance learning outcomes and well-being. This requires a professional degree in **MEd Educational Psychology** or **PhD Educational Psychology** offered in the Faculty of Education.

Career Opportunities with Professional Training (continued)

- **Research and Academia:** Psychology graduates can pursue careers in research institutions, universities, or think tanks, contributing to academic research and advancing knowledge in various areas of psychology. They may work as research assistants, data analysts, or pursue academic careers by pursuing postgraduate studies and becoming researchers or lecturers. This requires a **Master's or Doctorate degree in Academic MA Psychology** (dissertation) or or **PhD Psychology** (thesis) offered in the Department of Psychology, or alternatively the **MEd Learning Support, Guidance & Counselling** (dissertation) or **PhD Learning Support, Guidance & Counselling** (thesis) offered in the Faculty of Education.
- **Social Work and Community Development:** Psychology graduates with a passion for social justice and community empowerment can work in social work or community development roles. They may support vulnerable populations, advocate for social change, and design interventions to address social issues such as poverty, inequality, or substance abuse. This requires a master's or doctorate degree **MSW Social Development & Policy, Play-based Intervention or Healthcare** offered at the Department of Social Work & Criminology

Career Opportunities with Professional Training (continued)

- **Forensic Psychology:** While specialization typically requires further education, psychology graduates can work in entry-level roles within the criminal justice system, such as probation officers, victim support workers, or forensic assistants. They may assist in the assessment and treatment of offenders, provide expert testimony in court, or work in correctional settings. This requires **professional training in Forensic Psychology**.
- **Neuropsychology:** Neuropsychology is a highly specialised field that involves conducting neuropsychological assessment. You need to be **registered at the HPCSA as a Neuropsychologist, Clinical, Counselling or Educational Psychologist**, having the necessary additional expertise.

****Refer to the link below for more information about Forensic or Neuropsychology at <https://www.up.ac.za/psychology/article/2916140/neuro-forensic-psychology-information>**

- **Market Research and Consumer Behaviour:** Psychology graduates possess valuable insights into consumer behaviour, decision-making processes, and market trends. They can pursue careers in market research, advertising, or consumer insights, helping businesses understand consumer preferences, develop marketing strategies, and enhance brand engagement.

HPCSA Registration Categories

Department of Psychology:

Refer to slide 19 for more information on these programmes.

- **Clinical Psychologists** assess, diagnose, and intervene in order to alleviate or contain relatively serious forms of psychological distress and psychopathology, or what is commonly referred to as "abnormal" behaviour.
- **Counselling Psychologists** assist relatively well-adjusted people in dealing with normal problems of life concerning all stages and aspects of a person's existence in order to facilitate desirable psychological adjustment, growth, and maturity.
- **Research Psychologists** address any of the above professional categories, not to render services to the public in that field, but to apply research methods and techniques in order to contribute to the knowledge base of that particular field.

Department of Educational Psychology

- **Educational Psychologists** assess, diagnose and intervene in order to facilitate the psychological adjustment and development of children and adolescents within the contexts of family, school, social or peer groups and communities.

Department of Human Resource Management

- **Industrial/Organisational Psychologists** apply the principles of psychology to issues related to the work situation of relatively well-adjusted adults in order to optimise individual, group and organisational well-being and effectiveness.

HPCSA Registration Categories

There are six categories of registration in psychology, i.e. Clinical, Counselling, Educational, Industrial, Neuropsychology and Research Psychology.

<https://www.hpcsa.co.za/?contentId=0&menuSubId=52&actionName=Professional Boards>

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How do I become a Forensic Psychologist?** Recently the HPCSA announced a category to register as a Forensic Psychologist. There are many psychologists doing medico-legal work, or work in forensic contexts, often registered as Clinical or Counselling Psychologists. Consult the two following weblinks for more information on forensic psychology:
<http://forensic-psychologist.co.za/> or <https://forensic-psychologist.co.za/forensic-psychology/>
- **How do I come a Neuropsychologist?** Recently the HPCSA announced a category to register as a Neuropsychologist. For more on neuropsychology, please visit the South African Clinical Neuropsychological Association at <https://www.sacna.co.za/> or Neuropsychology South Africa at <https://www.neuropsychologysa.co.za/>
- **How do I become a Child Psychologist?** There is currently no registration category as Child Psychologist. If you want to practice as a psychologist in South Africa you need to first complete an undergraduate degree (3-years) and honours degree both majoring in psychology before you need to apply for a Master's in either Clinical, Counselling or Educational Psychology. If you want to work with children exclusively, you are advised to enrol for **Educational Psychology**.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- **How do I become an Educational or Industrial Psychologist?** It is recommended that you contact one of the departments below with your questions on how to become an Educational or Industrial Psychologist:

Industrial Psychology @ the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at <https://www.up.ac.za/human-resource-management>

Educational Psychology @ the Department of Educational Psychology, Faculty of Education at <https://www.up.ac.za/educational-psychology>

- **Where can I complete further training in Counselling Courses:**
Visit Humanitas Training & Counselling at <https://www.humanitas.co.za/>

Thank you for viewing this Presentation:

For more information on the undergraduate modules, contact the department at
psych.info@up.ac.za

Alternatively visit the department webpage at
<http://www.up.ac.za/psychology>

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