

Psychologists

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Working as a Psychologist [NOC 2021: 31200 / NOC 2016: 4151]

Job Description

Many psychologists work directly with clients or patients but the field of psychology is extremely broad.

Working as a Psychologist you will perform some or all of the following duties:

- Assess clients' psychological needs
- Provide treatment through individual counselling, group therapy or other techniques
- Take notes, and maintain records and files
- Use standard psychological tests for assessment
- Plan intervention programs and conduct program evaluation
- Some teach, conduct research and perform experiments
- May specialize in counselling, clinical, or another area of psychology
- Deliver presentations at conferences, workshops or symposia
- Provide consultation services to government and other organizations.

Most psychologists specialize in particular sub-fields such as: behavioural psychology, child psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, industrial psychology, neuropsychology, or sports psychology.

Sources:

- NOC, <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/>
- *Career Cruising* database (Profiles for Psychologist and Industrial-Organizational Psychologist).

Industry Overview

There is a growing demand for psychologists in British Columbia in order to meet public and mental health-care needs. Opportunities will become available in rehabilitation centres, schools, social services and health programs that combat drug dependency, family violence, crime and other mental health issues. Opportunities in private practice will also continue to be strong.

Industry sources report that northern B.C. currently requires more practitioners. As well, graduates who focus on neuropsychology and forensic psychology are in high demand.

Job Outlook in BC

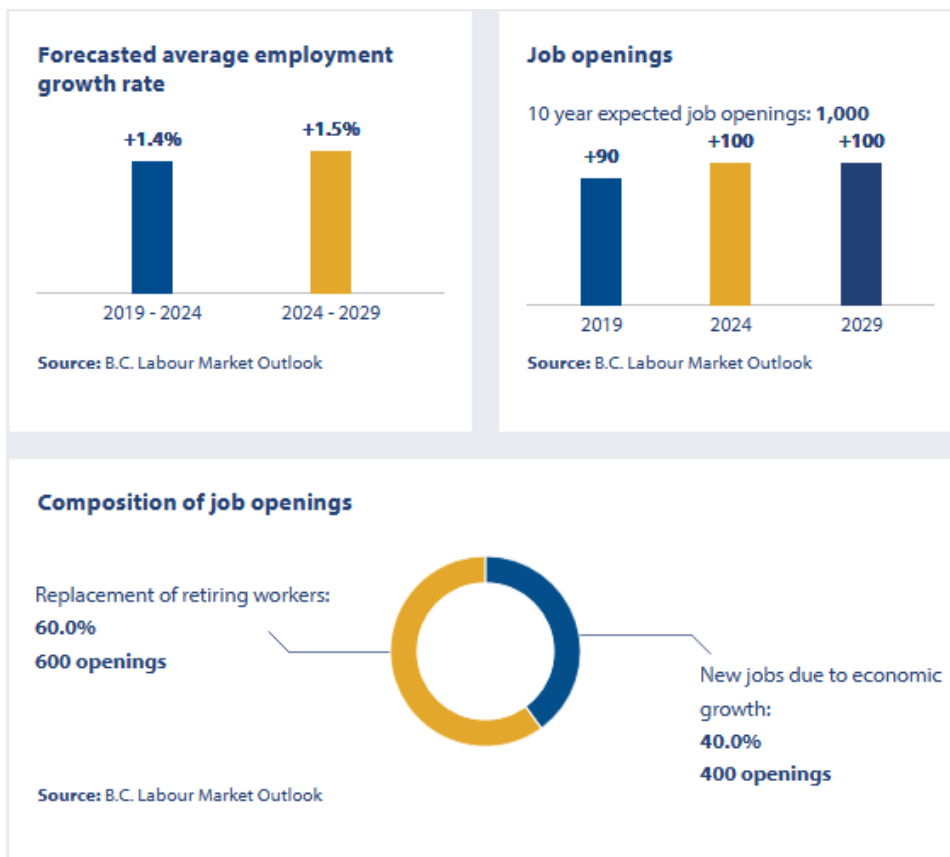


Chart from WorkBC

WorkBC provides job openings in BC regions from 2019 to 2029:

Region	Employment in 2019	Average Annual Employment Growth	Expected Number of Job Openings 2019-2029
Vancouver Island	520	1.2%	210
Lower Mainland / Southwest	1,780	1.5%	660
Thompson-Okanagan	180	1.6%	90
Kootenay	60	1.2%	30
Northeast	30	1.6%	10

You can learn more about working in BC from the following sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile**
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/psychologists>
- **Career Cruising** (Profiles for Psychologist & Industrial Organizational Psychologist)
Available from the VPL Digital Library
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising/>

Types of Employers

Psychologists work in many settings including:

- Private or public clinics,
- Correctional facilities
- Hospitals
- Mental health facilities
- Rehabilitation centres
- Community service organizations
- Businesses
- Schools and universities
- Government and private research agencies

Salary

In BC the median annual salary for psychologists is \$92,079.

Full-time, salaried psychologists usually receive benefits in addition to their salaries. Benefits generally include paid vacation time, paid sick leave, and dental and additional health insurance.

Source: WorkBC

Job Bank Canada provides hourly wages for Psychologists in BC regions:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	39.49	50.00	60.00
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	39.49	50.00	60.00
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	39.49	50.00	60.00

Table from Job Bank Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Working Hours

Typical working hours depend on the specific job and level of responsibility. Some psychologists have a standard 40-hour week; others may work more.

Psychologists working in private practice or in clinical, school or counselling psychology tend to set their own office hours. They often work evening hours to accommodate client schedules

Those employed in institutions, such as correctional facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, may be required to work evenings and weekends on an as-needed basis. Psychologists employed by academic institutions generally have flexible schedules but may work long hours.

Source: WorkBC

2. Skills, Education, and Experience

Skills

- excellent listening and interpersonal skills
- creative approaches to problem solving
- ability to work independently and as part of a team
- excellent analytic skills
- patient and detail oriented
- emotional stability
- interested in caring for people

Education and Experience

- A Doctoral degree in psychology is required for the designation 'Psychologist' in British Columbia
- A period of supervised practical experience is required
- Successful completion of the written and oral examinations is required
- Registration with the provincial regulatory body is required

Qualifications

Psychologist is a regulated occupation in British Columbia

Licensing Requirements for Psychologists

You must be licensed by the **College of Psychologists of British Columbia** in order to practice the profession or use the title *Psychologist*. Completion of a Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) or American Psychological Association (APA) accredited doctoral degree in psychology, and a CPA or APA accredited 12-month pre-doctoral internship, or the equivalent, is required for registration.

Further details about the registration process are available at:

- **College of Psychologists of British Columbia**
<https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/>

Internationally Trained Psychologists

In addition to meeting the above requirements, applicants trained outside of Canada or the United States must provide additional documentation. The *Association of Canadian Psychology Registry Organizations (ACPRO)* has developed a portal where internationally-educated applicants can now apply for licensure in Canada. The ACPRO portal will compile and authenticate required standard application documentation, including:

1. Identity documents
2. Education documents
3. Registration/license documents
4. Language proficiency test results
5. Criminal background check

Further information:

- **ACPRO Portal**
<https://acpro-aocrp.ca/internationally-educated-applicants/>
- **College of Psychologists of British Columbia – Applicants Educated Outside Canada/USA**
<https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/applicants/educated-outside-canadausa/>
- **Resources for Internationally Trained Professionals**
<https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/applicants/resources-for-applicants-from-outside-canadausa/>

3. Finding Jobs

You'll find job advertisements in local newspapers, electronic sources, and through professional associations.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily and the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **BC Public Service Employment Opportunities**
<https://bcpublicservice.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/JobSearch/index>
- **Government of Canada Jobs**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities/government.html>

BC has five regional health authorities that provide acute care and community programs (acute care hospitals, **mental health**, public health, addictions, and home and community care services)

- **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**
<https://careers.vch.ca/>
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<https://jobs.fraserhealth.ca/jobs>
- **Interior Health Authority**
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/careers/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Northern Health Authority**
<https://careers.northernhealth.ca/>
- **Island Health Authority**
<https://www.islandhealth.ca/careers>
- **BC Provincial Health Services Authority**
<http://www.phsa.ca/careers>
Operates agencies that provide province-wide health care services including, *BC Mental Health and Addiction Services*, BC Cancer Agency, BC Children’s Hospital, BC Women’s Hospital)
- **First Nations Health Authority**
<https://www.fnha.ca/about/work-with-us>
- **Providence Health Care**
<https://www.providencehealthcare.org/careers>
A Catholic health care community operating hospitals in the Metro Vancouver region.
- **Indeed.com**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
Find jobs posted on a multitude of company career sites and job boards

Professional Associations' Career Resources

- **British Columbia Psychological Association**
<https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/jobs>
- **Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)**
<https://cpa.ca/careers/>

Identifying the Right Position

When you browse job advertisements, you'll find a wide range of different job titles that are relevant. For psychologists, look at these related job titles (from NOC):

- Clinical psychologist
- Experimental psychologist
- Psychological associate
- Behaviourist
- Research psychologist

Source: NOC

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of potential employers in the Lower Mainland or BC. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **211 British Columbia**
<https://bc.211.ca/>
Browse listings under "Counselling"
- **Directory of Canadian Healthcare Personnel**
Available at the Central Library
362.11025 C21a
- **Guide to Canadian Health Care Facilities**
Available at the Central Library
362.105 C212ca
- **Reference Canada**
Available from the VPL Digital Library
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "psychology" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).

4. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume (curriculum vitae) and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your relevant experience.

Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

To learn about applying for jobs in Canada, use the following pathfinders which are available in print at the Central Library or online at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>
- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

5. Getting Help from Industry Sources

Industry Associations

Associations for psychologists in BC and Canada can provide information and assistance. Registration and fees are required for membership.

- **British Columbia Psychological Association (BCPA)**
<https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/>
- **College of Psychologists of British Columbia**
<https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/>
- **Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)**
<https://cpa.ca/>
- **Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)**
<https://www.asppb.net/>

Creates the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology

Industry Journals

Search the Vancouver Public Library catalogue for journals related to your profession. For example, available at the Central Library:

- **British Columbia Psychologist** / British Columbia Psychological Association
Available at the Central Library 150.5 B862a
And online at <https://www.psychologists.bc.ca/content/bc-psychologist>

***Questions? Please ask the Information Staff in the Central Branch,
Vancouver Public Library or telephone 604-331-3603.***

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic> .

