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Submission date: 29-Jan-2021 07:06PM (UTC+0500)

Submission ID: 1497000209

File name: careers_in_psychology.edited.docx (17.2K)

Word count: 743

Character count: 4307

Careers in Psychology

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Careers in Psychology

Over the years, I have contemplated pursuing a career in psychology. All through my time in school, I have discovered a few areas of psychology that are intriguing, and I believe they could be beneficial to me. I have discovered one of the interesting career opportunities in psychology is being a community psychologist as well as a developmental psychologist. Both of these fields are interesting and involve giving back to the community.

A community psychologist assist individuals strengthen their capabilities and meet their individual needs (Lopez et al., 1986). The experts in this field help people find resources to help themselves and work in collaboration with other parties to improve their lives and those close to them. Furthermore, community psychologists find ways of empowering people and making the community stronger. These are experts who work with schools to alleviate bullying, work with the community to prevent crime, and assist in implementing changes to policies that improve health outcomes. Individuals interested in community psychology may start their careers by undertaking an undergraduate degree in psychology (American Psychological Association, n.d). Mostly, learners opt for courses like social psychology, developmental psychology, education, biology, ethics, and cultural psychology program. Besides, since the field is competitive, many potential psychologists complete an undergraduate degree program and advance their studies to the master's degree, and even the doctoral levels. It is also important to point out that completing a master's degree or even a doctorate offers me more options because the field is competitive. That is why I would consider pursuing the same. As a community psychologist, I will work in different environments, for instance, non-profit entities, at the community level, colleges and universities, health agencies, and consulting firms. Moreover, I can opt for private practice, research, or seek employment in a medical center.

Developmental psychology is interesting because it involves scrutiny of psychological development of humans taking place throughout their life. Besides, for a long time, developmental psychology focused on early childhood and adolescence stages. However, that is changing because life expectancy today revolves around 80 years (Amir & McAuliffe, 2020). Developmental psychology is presently focused on aging, especially in research to assist the elderly stay independent and stronger. As a developmental psychologist, I can work in different environments like colleges and universities, often engaging in research activities and teaching. On the other hand, working in state agencies to evaluate as well as treat individuals living with developmental disabilities is also another option. Other areas of deployment are assisted living homes, children's rehabilitation centers, and psychiatric hospitals. To me, this is interesting because our elderly population is living longer and we must develop ways of helping them stay healthy in old age. Furthermore, my interest is to see the elderly live independently and assist them in coming up with strategies that can ensure they help themselves.

I would and indeed consider pursuing a career in developmental psychology or community psychology. As discussed earlier my goal is to work with the community making people better through psychological change, especially the elderly. Furthermore, I have and will consider studying psychology up to the highest levels because, with a master's or doctorate in psychology, the opportunities are countless. I can end up working in a school set up, college or university, and the community as well. Furthermore, a master's and a doctorate in psychology presents an array of opportunities, and upon completion of the same, it will be upon me to choose the field I find best to serve. However, I must also point out that studying psychology up to the doctorate level is not an easy task. It involves large amounts of money and requires dedication and time. That is why many people give up before completing their doctorate studies.

Consequently, before one decides to pursue psychology at the doctorate level it is advisable to have the necessary funding. Nonetheless, upon completion of psychology at the highest levels, the opportunities become limitless. In that regard, I am ready and willing to venture into the field of developmental and community psychology and study up to the doctorate level.

References

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