



# Life as a Psychologist: Career Choices and Insights

*Gerald D. Oster*

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## **Life as a Psychologist: Career Choices and Insights** Gerald D. Oster

Dozens of outstanding practitioners and scholars explain how quickly the career opportunities for graduates with psychology degrees are growing. Oster contacted dozens of working psychologists and asked them what advice they would offer today's aspiring psychologists. Their responses provide a glimpse into a changing and ever-expanding field. The book includes advice on making the right choice from among psychology careers in fields old and new, the ins and outs of graduate school, and the lessons seasoned professionals learned in their quests for meaningful careers. Web sites for more information on specialties are listed, as are suggested additional readings. This insightful work will interest high school students and college undergraduates, career-changers and psychologists seeking new directions, as well as guidance counselors and parents.

Psychology is one of the most popular majors in college today, with the number of students enrolled in the discipline having surged some 200% in the last 10 years. In this book, dozens of outstanding practitioners and scholars explain how quickly the career opportunities for graduates with psychology degrees are growing—in talk therapy and clinical research, but also at agencies ranging from the CIA and Homeland Security to the Library of Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission. In preparing his book, Oster contacted dozens of working psychologists and asked them what advice they would offer today's aspiring psychologists. Their responses provide a glimpse into a changing and ever-expanding field. Dozens of contributors recall their thoughts and actions as they plotted careers—or landed jobs by surprise. From one psychologist who put her research aside to become president of a university, to another who ended his work with children to become an author of psychological mystery books, the dozens of practitioners interviewed share the sometimes-humorous, often-difficult experiences and decisions they faced as they completed their college years and built successful careers.

The book includes advice on making the right choice from among psychology careers in fields old and new, the ins and outs of graduate school, and the lessons seasoned professionals learned in their quests for meaningful careers. Web sites for more information on specialties are listed, as are suggested additional readings. The book also includes sections on making the most of undergraduate years, and on balancing the demands of career and family.

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