

PostAc[®] Psychology Lesson Plan (Orientation Unit)

Identification of job roles and skills for psychology graduates: Discussion-based workshop

Suggested session time: 60-90 minutes (session can be adapted)

Session Modality: Face-to-face or live online

Purpose

Students will learn about the skills and attributes acquired during a 3-year accredited Australian psychology degree and how these relate to the identification of appropriate jobs.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Identify core skills and attributes developed from a 3-year psychology degree; and
2. Understand the breadth of job roles available to psychology graduates.

Assumed Knowledge

None. This lesson plan is designed to accompany a first-year orientation unit syllabus, but it is designed for those studying an undergraduate degree in psychology.

Lesson Structure

LESSON SEQUENCE

Suggested Timing	Lesson Content	Learning Experiences	Materials
INTRODUCTION			
5-10 minutes	Why Psychology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider asking students to discuss with a peer why they decided to pursue a degree in psychology (f2f or in break out rooms online). We suggest giving them a moment to consider responses before commencing discussion with a peer. When the whole class reconvenes, call for example responses. Identify any responses on board which relate to skills/attributes (i.e., communicate with and help others) and psychology-specific knowledge. 	<p>Whiteboard/pens (or electronic shared space [e.g., Blackboard Collaborate, Padlet]).</p> <p>The provided PowerPoint slides to accompany the lesson plan.</p>
DEVELOPMENT			



15-20 mins	Psychology skills and attributes from a 3-year psychology degree	<p>Next, students are asked to briefly consider the skills and attributes of a 3-year psychology graduate. In suggested groups of 3-4 students, and using the list you have collated during the first activity as a broad guide, students can briefly brainstorm the skills and attributes (i.e., ethics) acquired from a psychology degree.</p> <p>Call on group responses. Provide a list of suggested skills/attributes (e.g., research methods, teamwork, ethics, problem solving, analytical skills etc and use the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council competencies as a guide, as needed). Ask the class/groups to order the skills/attributes of a psychology graduate (they can also include their own) in order of perceived importance.</p> <p>Are they surprised by any inclusions? If so, why? Do they think there is anything missing? (<i>Australian educators: You could also use this opportunity to demonstrate the foundational APAC competencies</i>).</p>	Post it notes (for f2f if listing in order of importance around the room) or electronic whiteboard (online).
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<p>30 minutes</p>	<p>Analysis of job advertisements (which are/are not suitable for a psychology graduate, and why?)</p>	<p>Now that students have a more specific understanding of the skills and attributes of a psychology degree, what specific job areas/jobs do they think are suitable for a 3-year psychology graduate?</p> <p>Whole group discussion of similarities/differences and present information regarding work areas for psychology graduates (e.g., Human Resources, Marketing, Health etc).</p> <p>Using the PostAc® Psychology report (Busby Grant et al., 2024) as a guide, in addition to the associated slides provided (<i>in f2f settings you may like to have these presented around the room for students to move to</i>), present each job advertisement. Which of the jobs do the students think are relevant to psychology? Why/why not? Ask groups to rank the jobs from highly suitable to unsuitable (<i>they could also consider their own potential interest in each position</i>).</p>	<p>PostAc® Psychology report and associated PowerPoint slides.</p>
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<p>15-30 minutes</p>	<p>PostAc® Psychology findings and reflection</p>	<p>Using the provided slides as a guide, highlight the method and findings from the PostAc® Psychology report. The job examples provided in class represent findings from the analysis of over 5 million job advertisements using an algorithm designed to identify jobs applicable for psychology graduates. Communicate that the algorithm identified all the provided job examples as suitable for 3-year psychology graduates!</p> <p>Reflection: What is a key takeaway from the class? Call for responses and demonstrate learning outcomes.</p> <p><i>If time permits, consider presenting information on other job titles identified by the results of the project.</i></p> <p>Connect to next class: <i>You may like to ask students to use a search engine ahead of the next class to see if they can identify job advertisements for some of the jobs identified by the PostAc® Psychology Report. Encourage them to come to the next class with consideration of why the job is relevant, and if any additional training/upskilling will be needed.</i></p>	
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Suggested citation:

George, A. M., & Busby Grant, J. (2024). PostAc Psychology Lesson Plan (Orientation Unit): Identification of job roles and skills for psychology graduates. Retrieved from <https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/faculties/health/research/demand-for-australias-psychology-graduates>