

# Community service jobs abound for psych grads



Emerald Graphic

**Editor's note:** This article is part of a series on the job-market outlook for University graduates.

By Marian Green  
Of the Emerald

University psychology majors probably won't get rich, but at least they'll find a plentiful job market.

"You hear about \$65-an-hour psychiatric therapists, but those are very rare," says psychology peer advisor Dennis Mohatt.

Graduates with bachelor's degrees usually begin their careers by getting hands-on ex-

perience with human support programs such as Vista, Mohatt says.

With that experience, they often find jobs with community organizations where they evaluate the performance of personnel-relations programs and teach supervisors communication skills, he says.

Industrial-organizational psychology, as that field of psychology is known, is really opening up, Mohatt says.

Another way to get experience is to take the psychology department's course in advanced-applied psychology,

which is applying psychology to work environments. The one-year, senior-level sequence includes an internship and requires a thesis. It provides the experience needed to land a job in the industrial-organizational field, he says.

Mohatt works as an intern for the City of Eugene evaluating the effectiveness of personnel programs and teaching communication skills to supervisors.

"Coming out of this program, there are a lot of opportunities.

Mohatt says there is a growing need for industrial-organizational psychologists. One example of this need is the car industry.

"The Japanese car makers are out-producing the American companies," he says. "Workers find themselves at odds with how the system is run, and industrial-organizational psychologists are trying to make it better."

In addition, graduates land jobs with organizations such as Serenity Lane Alcoholic Treatment Center, Whitebird Clinic or children's shelters, Mohatt says.

And while the Reagan Administration's cuts in human services somewhat reduce the job opportunities, the cuts actually will create a need for human services, he says.

But Mohatt cautions students who want to earn high salaries in a psychology career.

"You're in a helping position," Mohatt says. "When you decide to work for people, you're giving up that goal to make a lot of money."

Mohatt estimates graduates

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