

Department of
Psychological
Science

Employability
Handbook

Dr. James Diller, BCBA-D, LBA
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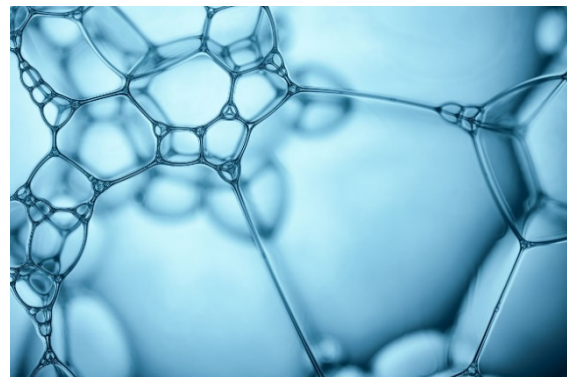
1. Why have an employability handbook?

To introduce the concept of employability to you, as a student.

To identify skills and abilities that we include in our classes.

To highlight special opportunities available to our students

To present a list of possible career options for a Psychology Major

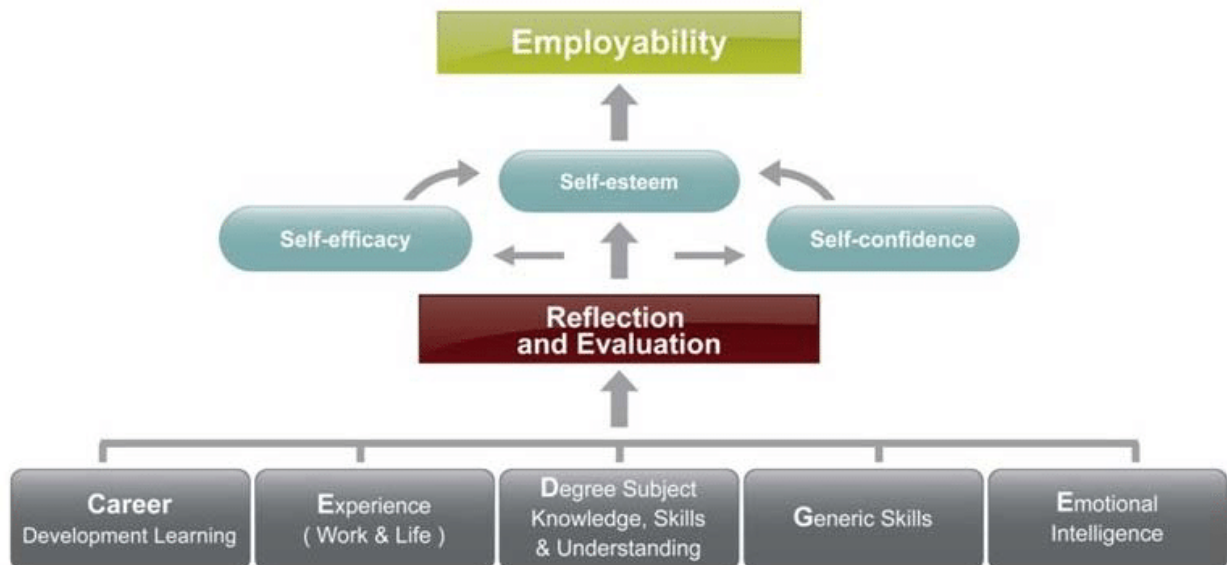


2. What is Employability?

“Employability is a set of achievements—skills, understandings and personal attributes—that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, benefiting themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy.”

From “Learning for Life and Work Report of the Commission on Higher Education & Employability” (NEBHE, March 2018, p.11)
https://nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/Learning_for_Life_and_Work_Report.pdf

Students gain these skills through their coursework, extracurricular activities, internships, and work experiences.



(CareerEDGE Model adapted from Pool, L.D. and Sewell, P. 2007)

3. Key Skills in Psychology

Our major is built around the learning goals for undergraduate psychology programs from the American Psychological Association (2013). These goals are:

- a. Knowledge Base in Psychology
- b. Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking
- c. Ethical & Social Responsibility in a Diverse World
- d. Communication
- e. Professional Development



Knowledge Base

- We require an *Intro to the Major* course at the beginning of a student's time in our major, and a *Professional Development* course at the end.
- We provide a broad array of courses in different areas of Psychology, including behavior analysis, cognitive, developmental, evolutionary, industrial-organizational, social psychology, and psychopathology.



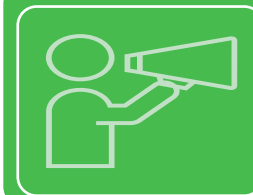
Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking

- We have a four-course Research Methods sequence where students learn and apply critical thinking and quantitative and ethical reasoning to understanding and carrying out research.



Ethical & Social Responsibility

- We also offer Global Field Courses that allow you to experience diverse cultures and develop global awareness.



Communication

- All of our courses involve at least one writing assignment, so students get lots of practice and feedback with this form of professional communication.
- Many courses include group projects, so students can learn how to successfully collaborate with a team.



Professional Development

- Our department houses a robust internship program with opportunities to learn employability skills at more than 60 different psychology sites in the community.
- We offer many courses that allow you to practice employability skills directly, including research assistantship, teaching assistantship, independent study, and research field experience courses.

4. What do Psychology graduates do?

The Psychology Major prepares graduates for basically any career they want. With the information literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills you can learn in this program of study, you'll be well-suited for most careers.

A recent study found that 25% of psychology graduates go on to graduate school in psychology, 18% go on for additional training outside of psychology, and 57% go into the workforce directly (Lin, Christidis, & Stamm, 2017).

Lin, L., Christidis, P., & Stamm, K. (2017). The path to becoming a psychologist. *Monitor on Psychology*, 48(9), 17.

[A search for Psychology on O*NET](#), a resource for identifying careers, lists 57 occupations for people with training in psychology. These jobs include work in education, human services, counseling, and biomedical fields.

[The American Psychological Association](#) has good information about careers in the field on their website along with a [Career Guide](#)

[The U.S. News](#) recently published (November 16, 2020) an article outlining the many different career opportunities for students graduating with a degree in Psychology.

5. Where do Psychology Graduates work?

6. How can I get additional experience or skills?

- Volunteer
 - The Center for Community Engagement is a great place to develop your skills and make valuable connections
 - <https://www.easternct.edu/community-engagement/>
- Get Involved
 - Join the Psychology Club and/or any one of 80+ other clubs on campus.
 - <https://www.easternct.edu/studentactivities/clubs-orgs/>
- Intern
 - You can earn credit and gain experience with our internship program. Contact Dr. Salters-Pedneault for more information.
- RA or TA
 - Become a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant. Earn credit and gain professional skills while working with a faculty member!
- Global Field Course
 - Take a Global Field Course or study abroad!
 - <https://easternct.edu/global-studies/>
- Connect
 - Get to know your faculty advisor! They can provide you with opportunities to match your interests and will be better able to write you a letter of reference if they know you.

8. Utilize the Center for Internships & Career Development

 <p>Center for Internships and Career Development</p>	<p>Visit their website at https://easternct.edu/career/</p>
	<p>Schedule an appointment with a member of their staff.</p>
	<p>Activate and use your ECN account to explore internship and job postings and to view the programs and events they offer.</p>
	<p>Explore Career Options on O*Net, Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.</p>
 <p>WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?</p>	<p>Explore the What Can I Do With This Major Tool:</p>