

Psychologist Degrees and Credentials

The graduate degrees that licensed psychologists may have are:

PhD The Doctor of Philosophy is an academic degree earned in four to seven years. Many psychologists, therapists, counselors, and coaches hold a doctorate of philosophy. A PhD in psychology emphasizes theory as well as statistics and data gathering. Psychologists with a PhD are also fully trained in the assessment and treatment of all behavioral conditions. (American Psychological Association)

PsyD The Doctor of Psychology, PsyD, is a professional degree earned in four to seven years that focuses on the practical application of therapy, counseling and assessment. Many psychologists, therapists, counselors, and coaches hold a doctorate of psychology. A PsyD in psychology emphasizes clinical application as well as theory, statistics and data gathering. Psychologists with a PsyD are fully trained in the assessment and treatment of all behavioral conditions

EdD Many professionals with a Doctor of Education practice therapy. They are trained in child development and education, sometimes with a focus on educational planning and assessment. A total of four years of study is usually necessary to receive an EdD.

Some psychologists have chosen to obtain additional credentials in psychology and therapeutic methods:

ABFP Board certification by the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP). The Forensic Board is an affiliate of the ABPP that offers a Diploma in Forensic Psychology to those psychologists who satisfactorily complete the requirements for achieving Specialty Board Certification. (American Board of Forensic Psychology)

ABPP Established in 1947, the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) grants Diplomate certification to licensed psychologists who demonstrate an advanced level of competency and experience in their service specialty. To obtain this certification, a psychologist must undergo a rigorous written and oral examination process by a team of examiners certified in that specialty.

BCD The Board Certified Diplomate certification is granted to practitioners who demonstrate a high level of competency and experience in their field and have five years and 7,500 hours of post-graduate clinical practice (including 3,000 hours under supervision). BCD professionals can be social workers, counselors, psychologists, or other mental-health professionals.

CGP A Certified Group Psychotherapist is a clinical mental health professional who meets nationally accepted criteria of education, training, and experience in group psychotherapy.

CHT The Certified Hypnotherapist has received training in hypnotherapy.

FAACP Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. Psychologists who pass the American Board of Clinical Psychology's Board Certification examination in Clinical Psychology are eligible receive the FAACP credential.

**Information obtained from the Maryland Psychological Association