# Helping Psych Students **Understand Their** Employable Skill Set

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## Background & Objectives

Psychology Degree:

- 4th most popular degree
- Psychology students face underemployment after graduation

**Objectives**:

• Identify the connection between knowledge, skills, and abilities from psychology undergraduate and job requirements

### **Research Questions**

- Are the knowledge, skills, and abilities gained in a psychology undergraduate requirements of jobs?
- If so, how many?

# Methodology

Where Science

- 1. Had professors rank the level of 41 KSAOs for a C student finishing their class on Likert scale 1 - 7
- 2. Created combinations of courses in line with degree requirements that maximized or minimized the level of the most KSAOs
- 3. Compared the highest KSAO levels for each of those scenarios with the cutoff scores of those KSAOs in each of 875 jobs

Meets HR

The levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities psychology students develop in their undergraduate programs compose 27-29% of requirements in 875 benchmark jobs and are used in their entirety in 240 - 535 of those jobs.





Minimum Course Outcome **Total Benchmark Jobs** 

535 Jobs 61.1%



Maximum Course Outcome **Total Benchmark Jobs** 

Both maximum and minimum outcome students acquire all the 41 KSAOs in this study but at different levels.

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#### Results

	<i># of KSAOs</i>	Average Level of KSAOs
linimum		
utcome	41	4.96
laximum		
utcome	41	5.29

• Each outcome had on average 27 -29% of the required KSAOs for each

- of the 875 jobs
- 535 jobs used all 41 of the KSAOs of the maximized outcome
- 240 jobs used all 41 of the KSAOs
  - of the minimized outcome

#### Implications

- Psychology students are applicable for a wider variety of jobs than they may be aware of
- Understanding their skillset should help students expand their job interests
- Future research should
- Include ratings of all 160 KSAOs
- Include Gen Ed courses
- Investigate at other universities

### References

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