



Doctoral Degree in Occupational Health Psychology at the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Why Pursue a Career in Industrial/Organizational Psychology with an Occupational Health Psychology Specialization?

A career in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, with a specialization in Occupational Health Psychology, will provide the aspiring psychologist with many opportunities to work in a wide variety of work settings with many different responsibilities and opportunities. Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) is a relatively new interdisciplinary field that seeks to improve the quality of working life and also enhance the safety, health and well-being of workers. OHP represents a partnership of psychological and occupational health sciences that combines the specialized knowledge and methods from the fields of psychology, public/occupational health, organizational studies, human factors, occupational sociology, industrial engineering, economics, and other disciplines. Students who choose the field of OHP will be able to get in on the ground floor of an exciting new discipline of psychology in which they can truly make a positive difference. Furthermore, the job market is excellent so hardworking students can find a well paying and satisfying job after graduation.

Sunshine Education and Research Center

University of South Florida, College of Public Health • 13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MDC56 • Tampa, FL 33612

Learning about Occupational Health Psychology (OHP)

If I decide to earn a degree in industrial/organizational (I/O) psychology with an occupational health psychology (OHP) specialization, what will this degree actually prepare me to do?

You will be prepared to:

- Conduct research relating psychological factors to workplace health, safety and well-being;
- Publish scientific papers and present scientific results at national and international conferences;
- Consult with organizations concerning their human resource practices that affect workplace health, safety, and well-being;
- Teach university courses on I/O psychology and OHP;
- Develop organizational procedures and programs that enhance the health, safety, and well-being of employees; and
- Collaborate as part of a team with professionals with a variety of health backgrounds, such as medicine, nursing, and public health to ensure the health and well being of workers, with a focus on psychological issues.

What kind of career and jobs could I pursue as an I/O psychologist with an OHP specialization?

- I/O psychologists work in many different settings and have many different important roles in the workplace. The most common jobs include:
- A professor in a college/university department of psychology, management, or public health;
- A consultant in your own private practice;
- A consultant working for a consulting firm that provides services to organizations. Some of these firms employ many psychologists, and have offices worldwide;
- A psychologist in charge of employee recruitment and/or staff development for a large organization, either a private corporation or a government agency; and
- A research scientist working for a research institute or government agency including the military.

What would I actually do as an I/O Psychologist with an OHP Specialization?

Your actual job responsibilities will depend on your particular type of job. College professors teach classes, mentor graduate students in research, and conduct research that they present at scientific conferences and publish in scientific journals. Consultants help organizations develop new methods for recruitment, training, and supervising employees, as well as other areas concerning employees. Research scientists, like college professors, conduct and disseminate their research.

How much money can I earn as an I/O psychologist with an OHP concentration?

Salaries for I/O Psychologists vary according to the type of job. The Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology conducted a 2006 salary survey that provides detailed information (<http://www.siop.org/bookspubs.aspx>). The median salary for all I/O psychologists is about \$98,000 per year. Starting salaries are about \$72,000, but this depends on the type of job and the location. For example, median salaries for professors in a department of psychology are about \$71,000, but in a college of business are about \$121,000.

How can I learn more about I/O psychology and OHP?

To learn about I/O psychology, go to the Society for I/O Psychology website: <http://www.siop.org>. Information about OHP can be found at the Society for OHP website: <http://www.sohp-online.org> or review our USF Department of Psychology - IO program web site at <http://psychology.usf.edu/grad/io/app.aspx>

The Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) Program at USF

What can I do to prepare myself for the USF I/O Psychology Program and the OHP specialization?

Admission into the USF I/O program is competitive, with more than 120 applicants for 6 to 8 openings each Fall. Mean GRE scores of admitted students are approximately 1350 (quantitative plus verbal portions), and mean undergraduate GPA for upper division courses is approximately 3.8. Research experience, personal statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation are also important.

How can I learn about the application process?

Go to: <http://psychology.usf.edu/grad/io/app.aspx> for further information.

Who can I contact at the Department of Psychology?

Please contact Dr. Paul Spector at 813-974-0357 or spector@shell.cas.usf.edu

What types of courses will I take for the I/O degree and the OHP specialization?

Students take both required and elective courses in basic psychology (cognitive, personality, and social), I/O psychology, research methodology, and ethics. There is a required minor for OHP of four courses in the College of Public Health that consists of courses in behavioral medicine, biostatistics/epidemiology, and occupational safety.

What Makes the USF I/O Psychology Program 'Stand Out'?

Our I/O program is one of the few that offers an OHP specialization. The program itself is listed among the US News Top Ten, and our faculty have been noted in several recent studies as among the most productive in research among all I/O doctoral programs. We are one of the leading producers of I/O PhDs, and have a large network of alumni who are involved in helping to train our students. Some of those alumni have been active in the OHP field, being among the initial group of psychologists in this emerging area.

OHP specialization students can obtain training support through the Sunshine ERC NIOSH Training grant, as well as through a variety of other on campus and off campus sources.