



Educational Topic

Psychologist

Related Job Titles:

Cognitive Psychologist, Research Psychologist

Job Description:

Psychologists study the human mind and behavior. They make predictions and collect data to test their predictions through lab experiments, tests, observations, interviews, or questionnaires. They may work at a counseling center, their own office, a hospital, a clinic, university, research center, business, non-profit or government organization. NASA Psychologists are usually Research Psychologists who do research and come up with explanations for how people behave or function in aerospace environments. These studies may include how well humans can use their senses and make decisions, how the environment affects a human's ability to think and work, and how well crew members work together and get along in aerospace conditions. Some travel is usually required to attend conferences or conduct research.

Interests / Abilities:

- Are you a good listener?
- Do you enjoy doing research?
- Do you pay close attention to details?
- Do you work well on your own?
- Do you work well with a team?
- Do you express yourself clearly when speaking and writing?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Science (biology, psychology)
- Math (statistics)
- Research methods

Education / Training Needed:

The minimum education required for this position is a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science or other appropriate subject from an accredited college or university. This course of study must include at least 20 semester hours of Physiology, Experimental Physiological Psychology or other appropriate life science or experience in biotechnology, hardware or other appropriate life science field. To do research, a Ph.D. is highly desired for this position.

Areas of expertise:

- *Human performance studies:* study how humans behave and function, how the crew works together, and how the senses work in aerospace environments
- *Manned systems:* design guidelines for hardware and software to best meet human needs in aerospace environments

