Psychological professions include high-intensity therapists, psychologists, psychological well-being practitioners, counsellors and psychotherapists. Other roles that can work as part of the psychological professions team include social workers, occupational therapists, psychiatrists, art, drama and music therapists.

Skills and qualities needed
You’ll need a variety of skills, including a knowledge of psychological theory, an interest in how people think and behave and the ability to relate to a wide range of people including patients and colleagues. You’ll need to be patient and sympathetic.

Entry requirements
Applicants for posts as assistant clinical psychologists usually need a degree in psychology, recognised by the British Psychological Society. A psychological wellbeing practitioner (PWP) apprenticeship is an opportunity for people without a degree to undertake PWP training.

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Working week for a counsellor in the NHS is typically
37.5 hours

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Starting salary for trainee high intensity therapists in the NHS is typically Agenda for Change band 6 £30,401 outside London.


24,340 practitioner psychologists are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council, (including forensic, counselling, health, clinical and other psychologists).

There are 33 university professional training courses for clinical psychology.

"I’m really happy with my career choice and I wouldn’t want to do any other job in the world!" Peter Beazley, (head of secure services inpatient psychology consultant clinical psychologist)