

MODULE 3 HISTORY AND APPROACHES

BASIC RESEARCH SUBFIELDS

- **Cognitive Psychologists** research interests include designing computer-based models of thought processes and identifying biological correlates of cognition
- **Developmental Psychologists (DP)** apply scientific knowledge to educational, child-care, policy, and related settings. DP's would probably specialize in a specific stage of the life span, such as infancy, childhood, adolescence, or middle or late adulthood.
- **Educational Psychologists** are interested in psychological processes involved in learning.
- **Experimental Psychologists** are scientists who investigate a variety of basic behavioral processes in humans and other animals.
- **Psychometrician Psychologists** update existing neurocognitive or personality tests or devise new tests for use in clinical and school settings or in business and industry.
- **Quantitative Psychologists** are researcher who design, analyze, and interpret the results of research programs.
- **Social Psychologists** study how our beliefs, feelings, and behaviors are affected by and influence other people.

APPLIED RESEARCH SUBFIELDS

- **Forensic Psychologists** conduct research on the interface of law and psychology, help to create public policies related to mental health, help law-enforcement agencies in criminal investigations, or consult on jury selection and deliberation processes.
- **Health Psychologists** are researchers and practitioners concerned with psychology's contribution to promoting health and preventing disease.
- **Industrial-Organizational Psychologists** study the relationship between people and their working environments.
- **Neuropsychologists** investigate the relationship between neurological processes and behavior. A Clinical Neuropsychologist works in a hospital's neurology, neurosurgery, or psychiatric unit.
- **Rehabilitation Psychologists** are researchers and practitioners who work with people who have lost optimal functioning after an accident, illness, or other event.
- **School Psychologists** are involved in the assessment of and intervention for children in educational settings.
- **Sports Psychologists** study the psychological factors that influence, and are influenced by, participation in sports and other physical activities.

THE HELPING PROFESSIONS

- **Clinical Psychologists (CP)** promote psychological health in individuals, groups, and organizations. CP's must earn a doctorate to perform clinical psychology.
- **Community Psychologists** look at human behavior and how it is powerfully influenced by the interaction between people and their physical, social, political, and economic environments.
- **Counseling Psychologists** help people adjust to life transitions or make lifestyle changes.

Be Able to Answer: Name the subfields that focus on a.) people and their work environments, b.) how people change over the life span, c.) the human thinking involved in perceiving, remembering, speaking, and decision making, and d.) diagnosing and treating psychological disorders.

Practice FRQ: Anisha, a high school junior, has been struggling recently in many areas of her life. She is overweight and spends several hours a day watching television. She is having trouble keeping up in her classes and says she cannot seem to keep her focus. She also is having trouble making friends and “fitting in” at school.

Explain how the following applied psychologists might attempt to help Anisha's current situation.

- Health Psychologists
- Social Psychologists
- Counseling Psychologists