According to the 2014 Graduating Student Survey (with a 57.8% response rate for Neuroscience & Behavior undergraduates):

- 75.6% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 40.5% were employed
  - 35.1% had secure plans to attend grad school

Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Neuroscience & Behavior majors in recent years:

- Columbia University Medical Center
- Juilliard
- Health Leads
- CSH
- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
- Gerson Lehrman Group
- Success Academy Charter Schools
- CROSSIX
- McKinsey & Company
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- National Institutes of Health

What jobs do Neuroscience & Behavior majors do?

A degree in Neuroscience & Behavior provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Health**: Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical, Medical/Clinical, Bioethics, Biomedical Research, Public Health
- **Research**: Epidemiology, Data Analysis, Test Development, Neuroscience and Health Care Research
- **Business**: Consulting, Management, Human Resources, Organizational Development, Entrepreneurship
- **Education**: Training, Teaching, Higher Education, Student Support, Administration/Management
- **Communications**: Market Research, Public Relations, Copywriting, Advertising, Social Media
- **Government/Law**: Public Policy, Program Administration, Intelligence, Foreign Service
- **Communications**: Writing, Editing, Technical Writing, Journalism, Grant Writing
- **Nonprofit/Community/Social Services**: Mental Health Administration and Policy, Rehabilitation Services, International Aid

Use CCE’s [Industry Exploration](#) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.)
What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Neuroscience & Behavior majors bring?

The Neuroscience & Behavior curriculum at Columbia helps you to develop the following skills and abilities:

- Ability to think critically and objectively
- Use the scientific approach to evaluate problems
- Organize, interpret and evaluate empirical data; utilize appropriate statistical analyses
- Act ethically in all aspects of the science and practice of neuroscience and psychology
- Write clearly and effectively and present a case convincingly
- Discuss philosophical issues regarding the relationship between brain activity and subjective experience
- Strong command of neuroscience theory, research methods, and experimental design

What if I’m an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.