After looking through the Divisions that are listed on the APA website I have decided that the division that is best related to my career that I would consider joining would be Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology. This division is all about how individuals affect and are affected by other people and physical or social environments (American Psychological Association, 2014). The job that I would say that I feel fits into this division is a social worker. I feel that social workers have the client’s best interest at heart and that includes personality and social environmental factors.

After using the O\*Net Online Search Engine to search job positions for social workers I was able to find quite a few for child, family and school social worker. This social worker would “provide social services and assistance to improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families and to maximize the families well-being and the academic functions of children (O\*Net, 2017). Job functions for this position include: counseling individuals, problem solving, assess situations, conduct research on things that contribute to an individual’s issues. A social worker must have the following knowledge, “knowledge of principles, methods and procedures for diagnosis, treatment and rehab, knowledge of human behavior and performance, and knowledge of group behavior, social trends and influences, human migration, ethnicity, cultures history and origins” (O\*Net, 2017). This position requires a Bachelor’s Degree but they prefer a Master’s degree. The starting salary for this position is $43,250 a year.

In my geographical area, the leading employer prospect would be a social worker for CPS. After searching the internet for current openings for a social worker in my area I found one. It is a Social Worker Trainee which requires a Bachelor’s degree which is the same as the O\*Net site however the local one requires at least a year of experience in a related field. The starting salary for the CPS Social Worker is higher than the other starting at $46,800 a year. The CPS Social Workers job duties include but aren’t limited to: responding quickly to crisis situations, conducting investigations, interviewing staff, family and anyone else involved in the case, be knowledgeable in child development, verbal and communication skills and have the ability to work in an emotion-filled environment” (DFPS, 2018). It does seem that the CPS position would require more crisis type situations. My area has 1 open CPS position however if I didn’t mind driving an hour to an hour and a half that would open it up to over a dozen open CPS positons.

A psychology degree can offer up many positions including but not limited to: social work, case management, probation officer, intake coordinator, and so many others. The APA website could potentially help guide me in understanding more about different career options as well as allow me to connect with others and get insightful opinions on possible careers choices which could help me decide what I want to do upon graduation. My initial plan for building my professional network is to talk to coworkers and supervisors in my field who have knowledge, education and experience to help guide me on this path.

References

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