

Forensic Psychology

Forensic psychologists apply psychology to the field of criminal investigation and the law. Forensic psychologists utilize their knowledge of psychological principles and use it to understand different aspects of the legal system.

They offer their expertise on many legal matters, including:

- The mental state of criminal defendants
- Jury selection
- Child custody and family law
- Violence risk prediction
- Mediation and dispute resolution
- Discrimination
- Civil damages
- Social science research
- Civil commitment
- Threat assessment
- Selection and training of police officers and first responders



Undergraduate Course recommendations:

Psychology major
PY 211
PY 355/356
PY 358
PY377 Psych Law and Justice
CJ 101

Preparation for Graduate School:

- Relevant research experience
PY LAW Faculty: Dr. Brodsky,
Dr. Cox, & Dr. K. Salekin
PY Clinical Faculty: Dr. R. Salekin &
Dr. Glenn
- Criminal Justice major/minor

Education Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in:
 - Psychology with a focus on criminology or criminal justice
 - Criminal justice or criminology with a focus on psychology
- While a forensic psychologist may find work with a Master's degree, a Ph.D or a Psy.D. degree is recommended.
- Doctoral degree, often in clinical or counseling psychology, is usually required.
- Most positions in the field require board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

Salary:

Median: \$61,489
Entry level (0-5 yr) \$60,000
Mid-Career (5-10yr) \$76,000
Experienced (10-20yr) \$87,000
>20 yr \$118,000

Additional Resources and Further Reading:

- <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/education/programs/guide.pdf>
- <http://www.apa.org/action/science/forensic/education-training.aspx>
- <http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/forensic.aspx>
- http://study.com/articles/Forensic_Psychologist_Education_Requirements_and_Career_Information.html
- American Psychology- Law Society:**
http://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/index.aspx?_ga=1.15906033.613151235.1450137968
- What is Forensic Psychology?:**
<http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/psn/2013/09/forensic-psychology.aspx>