

## **FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (BS):**

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/642.php>

“The Forensic Psychology major is designed for students who are interested in the relationship between psychology and the criminal justice system. The mission of the Forensic Psychology major is to enhance students' understanding of individual behavior, in terms of its biological, cognitive, social and emotional components and their interacting, and its effects on the broader community. Students will learn to employ an empirical approach to understand human behavior.”

### **Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Forensic Psychology Majors:**

- Apply statistical methods to qualitative theories and problems
- Conduct field studies and assess results
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Create analyze data systems
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
- Evaluate theory and evidence
- Influence and persuade
- Evaluate situations and generate solutions
- Present complex ideas and information effectively
- Synthesize ideas and themes
- Utilize statistical and investigative applications

### **Transferring Skills to Careers:**

The skills above prepare Forensic Psychology majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. ***The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Forensic Psychology*** but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The qualitative and theoretical skills developed by *Forensic Psychology* are applicable to positions such as:

- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor
- Forensic Mental Health Clinician
- Research Assistant
- Social Service Worker
- Programmer/Analyst
- Journalist/Editor/Writer
- Attorney
- Psychologist
- Foreign Service Officer
- Information Analyst
- Industrial Analyst
- Professor/Teacher
- Laboratory Technician
- City Manager/Program Director
- Drama/Music/Art Critic
- Medical Examiner
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Consultant
- Economic Forecaster
- Higher Education Administrator

### **Strategies for Professional Development:**

- Explore minors such as: Anthropology, Computer Science, Public Administration, Human Services, Computer Science, Criminology, Dispute Resolution and Journalism.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences with various financial and government agency.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Research
  - Leadership
  - Technical Skills
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in field of interests.
- Get involve in student organizations such as the **PSI CHI, the National Honorary Society for Psychology.**
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in field of interests.
- Consider pursuing a master's degree or higher in a related career field.

### **Professional Associations/Organizations:**

A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the *National Trade and Professional Associations Directory*, the *American Society of Association Executives* or *Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I- National Organizations of the U.S.* is available in the Reference section of John Jay College's Lloyd Sealy Library.

- **American Association of the Advancement of Science**  
<http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas>
- **American Board of Forensic Psychology**  
<http://www.abfp.com/>
- **Careers in Psychology - American Psychological Association**  
<http://www.apa.org/topics/psychologycareer.html>
- **American Academy of Forensic Psychology**  
<http://www.aafp.ws/>

### **Additional Resources:**

- **New York Times Science Pages**  
<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science>
- **The Occupational Outlook Handbook - Psychologist**  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Life-Physical-and-Social-Science/Psychologists.htm>
- Blau, Theodore H. (1984). *The Psychologist as Expert Witness*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. pp. 19–25. ISBN 0-471-87129-X. "**Speciality Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists**". <http://www.ap-ls.org/links/currentforensicguidelines.pdf>.

**For more information on this major please visit:**

#### **Department of Forensic Psychology**

445 West 59th Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Room: 3505N  
(212) 237-8783

**Daryl Wout, Faculty Advisor:** [dwout@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:dwout@jjay.cuny.edu)

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments/psychology/academics.php>

#### **Academic Advising**

524 West 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019  
Room: L.73  
(646) 557-4872/(646) 557-4816

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php>