

Postgraduate Certificate FAQs:

1) What is Forensic Psychology?

Forensic Psychology is the application of psychological insights, concepts and skills to the understanding and functioning of the legal and criminal justice system. It embraces psychology and the law, the psychology of police and policing, eyewitness identification, jury research, corrections, probation, parole, victim services, addiction services, family services. Forensic psychology embraces a full range of activities throughout the criminal justice system from law enforcement to the treatment of offenders.

2) What is the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology?

This is a state-registered Postgraduate Certificate Program in Forensic Psychology, within the Psychology Department MA programs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. Students receiving, after 18 credits, the certificate will be credentialed with postgraduate documentation of coursework within one of the following six forensic psychology tracks:

- Psychological Assessment and Forensic Psychology;
- Family Violence and Victims;
- Forensic Counseling and Psychotherapy;
- Research in Forensic Psychology;
- Selected Topics in Forensic Psychology;
- Forensic Psychological Assessment and Testimony

3) What is the purpose of the postgraduate certificate?

This certificate has been developed to permit applicants with a clinical graduate degree to receive additional forensic training and focus in the subspecialty of their choice.

4) Who is eligible to apply for the postgraduate certificate?

The postgraduate certificate is designed primarily for those applicants who have already received a masters or a doctoral degree in psychology, social work, counseling, or a related field.

5) Does this certificate lead to licensure?

The postgraduate certificate is not designed to lead to licensure in any of the mental health professions. However, students who have applied for licensure and have been requested by state licensing boards to take additional courses may find some of these courses available in the certificate program.

6) What is the program of courses in the postgraduate certificate?

The following course sequences describe the six available Tracks that will be offered within the Postgraduate Certificate Program in Forensic Psychology:

I. Psychological Assessment & Forensic Psychology*

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Clinical Interviewing & Assessment (PSY 761).
3. Intellectual and Cognitive Assessment (PSY 751).
4. Projective Personality Assessment (PSY 752).
5. Objective Personality Assessment (PSY 753).
6. Criminal Psychological Assessment (PSY 734); or Advanced Forensic Assessment (PSY 754).

II. Family Violence & Victims Track*

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Clinical Interviewing & Assessment (PSY 761).
3. Family Violence & Disputes (PSY 742).
4. Victimology (PSY 705).
5. Dissociation & Trauma (PSY 819).
6. Crisis Intervention and Short-Term Counseling (PSY 708).

III. Forensic Counseling & Psychotherapy Track*

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Clinical Interviewing & Assessment (PSY 761).
or Ethical Issues in Forensic Mental Health (PSY 730).
3. Counseling & Rehabilitation of the Offender (PSY 707).
4. Assessment & Counseling of the Juvenile Offender (PSY 716).
5. Crisis Intervention and Short-Term Counseling (PSY 708).
6. Evaluation & Counseling of the Sex Offender (PSY 722).

IV. Research in Forensic Psychology Track*

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Social Psychology and the Legal System (PSY 720).
3. Social Science Evidence in Court (PSY 718).
4. Eyewitness Identification (PSY 727), Psychology of Jury Research (PSY 832), or Psychology of Confessions & Interrogations (PSY 826).
5. Advanced Research Methods (PSY 738).
6. Independent Study (Research Paper) (PSY 794).

V. Selected Topics in Forensic Psychology Track*

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Social Psychology and the Legal System (PSY 720).
3. Criminal Behavior (PSY 701), or Elective.*
4. Counseling & Rehabilitation of the Offender (PSY 707), or Elective.*
5. Victimology (PSY 705), or Family Violence & Disputes (PSY 742), or Elective.*
6. Ethical Issues in Forensic Mental Health (PSY 730), or Elective.*

VI. Forensic Psychological Assessment and Testimony* **

1. Mental Health Professionals, Social Science & the Law (PSY 700).
2. Criminal Behavior (PSY 701).
3. Objective Personality Assessment (PSY 753), Projective Personality Assessment (PSY 752), or Intellectual & Cognitive Assessment (PSY 751).
4. Advanced Forensic Assessment (PSY 754).
5. Criminal Psychological Assessment (PSY 734).
6. Evaluation & Counseling of the Sex Offender (PSY 722); or Assessment & Counseling of the Juvenile Offender (PSY 716).

** This track is only open to licensed psychologists with suitable assessment training and experience.

* Course substitutions and electives may be permitted with the discretionary approval of the Certificate Program Coordinator, from the following list:

- Human Growth and Development (PSY 731).
- Theories of Personality & Counseling (PSY 741).
- Counseling and Psychotherapy Methods (PSY 760).
- Psychopathology (PSY 745).
- Clinical Interviewing and Assessment (PSY 761).
- Research Design & Methods (PSY 715).
- Intermediate Statistics in the Social Sciences (PSY 769).
- Fieldwork in Counseling I (PSY 780).
- Fieldwork in Counseling II (PSY 781).
- Criminal Behavior (PSY 701).
- Violence and Aggression (PSY 703).
- Victimology (PSY 705).
- Counseling and Rehabilitation of the Offender (PSY 707).
- Crisis Intervention and Short-term Counseling (PSY 708).
- Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (PSY 714).
- Assessment & Counseling of the Juvenile Offender (PSY 716).
- Social Science Evidence in Court (PSY 718).
- Social Psychology and the Legal System (PSY 720).
- Evaluation and Counseling of the Sex Offenders (PSY 722).
- Mental Health Issues in Policing (PSY 726).
- Eyewitness Identification (PSY 727).
- Terrorism (PSY 729).
- Ethical Issues in Forensic Mental Health (PSY 730).
- Criminal Psychological Assessment (PSY 734).
- Clinical Crime Scene Analysis (PSY 739)
- Family Violence and Disputes (PSY 742).
- Intellectual and Cognitive Assessment (PSY 751).
- Projective Personality Assessment (PSY 752).
- Objective Personality Assessment (PSY 753).
- Advanced Forensic Assessment (PSY 754).

- Group Dynamics and Group Treatment (PSY 765).
- Personality Profiles of the Homicidal Offender (PSY 766).
- Brain and Behavior (PSY 779).
- Cults (PSY 806).
- Dissociation and Trauma (PSY 819).
- Empirical Profiling Methods (PSY 746).
- Empirical Crime Scene Analysis (PSY 748)
- Descriptive and Statistical Data Analysis in Psychology (PSY 737).
- Advanced Research Methods (PSY 738).
- Independent Study (PSY 794)
- An additional graduate course from the MA Programs in Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Forensic Computing, or Public Administration.

7) What are the admissions requirements for postgraduate certificate?

The program will seek individuals who have the academic background, ability, and motivation to receive postgraduate training in forensic psychology. Admission to the program will be based upon the following criteria, which will be interpreted flexibly to take into account individual experiences and situations:

- A bachelor's degree, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0; and
- A graduate degree in psychology, social work, or counseling. (Graduates with other degrees will be considered, on an individual basis, but they must then have a minimum of 18 psychology credits in their undergraduate and graduate coursework).
- Articulate personal statement that supports the applicant's request for admission to the certificate program.
- Appropriate letters of recommendation that consider the individual's intellect, character, maturity, judgment and interpersonal skills.
- Research Track applicants must be accepted by a psychology department research mentor, in addition to the Program Coordinator.
- Mental health job or externship experience will be an asset for admission, but not required.

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and perform satisfactorily in all practicum and fieldwork counseling courses to complete the Certificate Program. [To download an application for the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology, click here.](#)

8) Who are the faculty? What are their areas of expertise and interests?

The more than 35 full-time members of the faculty possess a unique blend of expertise in research, scholarship and teaching. Our adjuncts are often actively working in the forensic counseling field. A number of our faculty members have both law degrees and Ph.D.'s. Several professors have extensive experience as clinicians in forensic units of hospitals, in family court, or as consultants to police departments. Among their interests

are: dangerousness; screening of criminal justice applicants; jury and eyewitness research; insanity defense evaluations; child custody; the consequences of early childhood victimization; hostage negotiations; informed consent; group dynamics and cults; women and crime; delinquency; brainwashing; violence; and multicultural issues. Most have published significant articles and/or books on these and many other topics. For more information about our faculty, click on their Faculty Profiles at the Psychology Department website.

9) How will those who receive the advanced certificate utilize their training?

It is anticipated that the post graduate certificate will offer a forensic focus to those who already have training in the mental health field. This will provide a background for forensic job applications, opportunities, and careers, in both the public and private sectors. It may also enhance applications for further educational advancement at the doctoral level.

10) Is there financial aid available?

As the Postgraduate Certificate is a non-degree part-time graduate program, most traditional federal and state financial aid sources are unavailable, such as TAP, APTS, Federal Work Study and Stafford Loans. However, VVTA (Veterans' Tuition Assistance) is available to students. For further information, contact John Jay's Office of Student Financial Services at 212-237-8151, or go to www.jjay.cuny.edu , and then to Admissions, Tuition and Financial aid.

11) How do I apply to the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology?

To download an application for the Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychology, [click here](#).

Applicants may also request an application by calling the Graduate Admissions Office at 212-237-8863 or emailing graduate.admissions@jjay.cuny.edu or obtaining one at John Jay College Graduate Admissions Office, located at 445 West 59th Street, NYC, Room 1101N.

For additional information about the Postgraduate Certificate, please contact: Professor James Wulach at Jwulach@jjay.cuny.edu.