

Forensic Psychology Minor

Psychology, Criminal Justice, and the Legal System

For students interested in applying psychology to the criminal justice and legal systems, the Psychology Department offers a Forensic Psychology minor in collaboration with the Criminal Justice major at Canisius College.

“What Is Forensic Psychology?”

The term "forensic" comes from the Latin word "forensis," which literally means "of the market or forum." The word derives from the public forums of Ancient Rome where the law courts were commonly held. Today, forensic psychology is a generic term covering the diverse clinical, applied, and research activities which make up the combined area of psychology and law. It is an interdisciplinary field encompassing mental health (psychology, psychiatry, social work), law, and public policy. Forensic psychology offers a wide variety of career opportunities.

“What Career Opportunities Exist in Forensic Psychology?”

1. Clinical forensic positions such as consultants to courts, to probation/parole departments, police/law enforcement officers, and attorneys. These consulting services may include interpretation of psychological data or the development of psychological opinions.
2. Examining psychologists working in criminal, civil, or family law cases may be requested by either the defense or prosecution. They may work in outpatient counseling (pre-sentencing, parole, post-incarceration), inpatient settings such as prisons, or in group/individual therapy with sexual, violent, or mentally disordered offenders. They also may provide testimony to courts and work with police investigation units.
3. Criminal justice management and administration including roles as directors or supervisors in mental health institutions, prisons, parole offices, treatment centers and rehabilitation centers.
4. Public policy and applied research roles include: development of predictive models of violent behavior and violence prevention; development of models of legal decision making; program evaluation; and analyses of mental health law and policy.

**Students who wish to pursue this minor should contact:
Dr. Harvey Pines (HSC 211; 888-2517)**

Minor in Forensic Psychology

#1. Psychology courses required for the major *(See College Catalog)* 10 courses

#2. Courses **required** for minor: 7 courses

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|---------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| PSY 303 | Abnormal Psychology | (3) |
| PSY 360 | Psychology and Law | (3) |
| CRJ 330 | Current Issues in Forensic Psychology | (3) |
| CRJ 227 | Criminal Justice I | (3) |
| CRJ 228 | Criminal Justice II | (3) |

Plus one *Psychology course from the following list:*
(May also be counted toward your Psychology Major requirements.)

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| PSY 373 | Behavior Modification | (3) |
| PSY 395 | Assessment in the Behavioral Sciences | (3) |
| PSY 452 | Techniques of Counseling | (3) |
| <i>OR</i> | | |
| PSY 453 | Theories of Counseling | (3) |
| PSY 498 F | Forensic Psychology Practicum | (3) |

Plus one *Criminal Justice course from the following list:*

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| CRJ 300C | Special Topics: Death Penalty | (3) |
| CRJ 320 | Criminology | (3) |
| CRJ 337 | Violence and The Family | (3) |
| CRJ 344 | Violent Crime in American Society | (3) |
| CRJ 345 | Gangs in American Society | (3) |
| CRJ 351 | Police and Community | (3) |
| CRJ 354 | Juvenile Delinquency | (3) |
| CRJ 356 | Treatment of Offenders | (3) |
| CRJ 357 | Alternatives to Incarceration | (3) |
| CRJ 382 | Criminal Justice Ethics | (3) |
| CRJ 449 | Criminal Law | (3) |
| CRJ 450 | Criminal Procedure | (3) |