

# **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

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.)*

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:*

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)