



## ACADEMIC PATHWAY

# BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

### What is Forensic Psychology?

Forensic psychology merges psychological insights with legal challenges, applying psychological theories and research to address and solve legal issues. It operates under the understanding that the law, which influences human behavior throughout our lives, is fundamentally intertwined with psychological principles. Many legal frameworks are constructed on the premise of understanding how people think, act and interact. Through rigorous scientific exploration of human behavior, psychologists provide crucial contributions that often reshape these foundational legal assumptions.

This intersection of psychology and law is inherently dynamic, evolving continuously with societal changes and new scientific discoveries. As such, forensic psychology doesn't confine itself to a narrow scope but rather thrives as a broad and diverse discipline. This characteristic, while potentially challenging, adds a layer of excitement and unpredictability to the field. For those drawn to the complexity and ever-changing nature of human behavior within the legal context, forensic psychology offers a fascinating and endlessly expanding arena of professional engagement.

### Why study Forensic Psychology?

The forensic psychology major is designed for students interested in examining the relationship between psychology and the criminal justice system. The focus of the program is on the many different aspects of psychology and law. Students receive a solid foundation in criminal justice and take a variety of psychology and forensic psychology courses that help make the connections between these two fields.

The program will prepare students for careers in the criminal justice system and/or mental health service agencies. Students will develop knowledge and expertise in the psychology of violence, psychopathology, victimology, crisis intervention and research methods.

Students will unlock the exciting world of forensic psychology with our cutting-edge program, where the intricate theories and groundbreaking research of psychology meet the complexities of the legal world. At the heart of our society, the law intertwines with every aspect of human life, from the moment we are born until our last breath. It is built on the foundation of understanding human behavior—a realm where our program excels by diving deep into scientific studies that challenge and refine the legal system's assumptions.

As laws and psychological insights evolve daily, forensic psychology offers a vibrant and ever-expanding field of study. This dynamic nature means that the discipline is constantly unfolding, offering an exhilarating journey rather than a fixed destination. Our program is designed for

those who thrive on diversity and innovation, providing an unparalleled opportunity to explore a range of legal issues through the lens of psychology.

Students will embark on a rewarding career path that is as diverse as it is impactful, in a field where change is the only constant. They will discover the thrill of contributing to a domain where every day brings new challenges and opportunities for growth.

### What can I do with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology degree?

Graduates can embark on a transformative journey with a Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology from our university, where they will unlock the power to blend psychological expertise with the intricacies of the legal system. This degree opens the door to a world where psychology and law intersect, providing graduates with the unique skills to apply psychological theories and research in solving complex legal challenges. From the cradle to the grave, human behavior is influenced and regulated by law, intertwined deeply with psychological principles that shape our understanding of legal frameworks.

Graduates will find themselves at the forefront of a dynamic field, equipped to contribute to the continuous evolution of legal and psychological practices. Their education will empower them to engage in the scientific study of human behavior, offering insights that challenge and refine legal assumptions. The broad and diverse



nature of forensic psychology ensures a career path filled with variety, challenge and the thrill of contributing to significant societal changes.

This degree prepares students for a future where their work not only responds to current societal and scientific shifts but actively shapes them. With a Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology, graduates are not just choosing a career— they are stepping into a role that bridges the gap between understanding human behavior and applying that knowledge within the legal system, making an impact that resonates through the fabric of society.

Possible Careers

- Social Services Administration
- Probation and Parole
- Court Services
- Juvenile Corrections/Rehabilitation Facilities
- Federal Law Enforcement
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Federal and State Prison Systems

How much will I earn with an BCJ in Forensic Psychology?

Due to the diversity and broad nature of the field, students have a variety of potential employment opportunities with varying levels of pay. The job market listed below indicates average salaries by profession. Please note that many of the professions listed below require further specialized education well beyond the bachelor’s degree, and a BCJ in Forensic Psychology alone will not qualify you for several of these positions. Please confer with your academic advisor for further information on the type and level of education required for these listed professions.

Bachelors Degree:

- Probation/Correctional Treatment Specialist - \$59,860
- Corrections Officer/Bailiff - \$49,610
- Police/Detective - \$69,160
- Court Reporter - \$63,560
- Market Research Analysts - \$68,230
- Data Scientist - \$103,500
- Private Investigators - \$52,120

Masters Degree:

- Survey Researcher - \$60,410
- Post Secondary Teachers - \$80,840

What is your pathway to graduation?

| YEAR 1                                         |                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| FIRST YEAR FALL                                | FIRST YEAR SPRING                          |
| DEC100 Dragon Education: Engage                | ENG142 Rhetoric & Academic Writing         |
| ENG141 Rhetoric & Intro to Research Writing    | MAT185 Quantitative Reasoning              |
| JUS110 Intro to Criminal Justice               | SOC101 Intro to Sociology                  |
| DLT101 Digital Literacy & Technology Readiness | NAT130 Foundations of Healthy Living       |
| PSY101 Intro to Psychology                     | POL101 Intro to American Political Process |

| YEAR 2                               |                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SECOND YEAR FALL                     | SECOND YEAR SPRING                                                                 |
| DEC200 Dragon Education: Explore     | JUS202 Criminal Procedures                                                         |
| FOR105 Victimology                   | PSY362 Abnormal Behavior                                                           |
| COM130 Intro to Speech Communication | MAT273 Applied Statistics I                                                        |
| PSY250 Social Psychology             | One of the following courses:<br>HIS201/ENG201/PHI110/ART210/CUL210/ PHI215/GSC110 |
| JUS201 Criminal Law                  | Open Elective (100 level or above)                                                 |

| YEAR 3                                     |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| THIRD YEAR FALL                            | THIRD YEAR SPRING                  |
| DEC300 Dragon Education: Connect           | SCS300 Research Design             |
| Open Elective (200 level or above)         | PSY360 Intro to Counseling         |
| FOR344 Psychology of Violence & Aggression | FOR310 Threat Assessment           |
| JUS361 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice  | Open Elective (200 level or above) |
| Open Elective (100 level or above)         | Open Elective (200 level or above) |

| YEAR 4                                 |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FOURTH YEAR FALL                       | FOURTH YEAR SPRING                                                                                                                                      |
| FOR430 Crisis Intervention             | DEC400 Dragon Education: Impact                                                                                                                         |
| SOC360 Multicultural Issues in Society | JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice                                                                                                               |
| FOR460 Psychology and Law              | One of the following: COR420 Agency Management, FOR347 Psychology of Sex Crimes, FOR365 Drugs & Society, FOR485 Death & Dying or PSY269 Human Sexuality |
| Open Elective (200 level or above)     | Open Elective (200 level or above)                                                                                                                      |
| SCS470 Internship I                    | SCS471 Internship II                                                                                                                                    |

### Can I choose a minor?

There are several minor options available to forensic psychology majors; historically, two of the most popular have been the following:

| MINOR OPTIONS                                 |         |                                                                           |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| JUSTICE ADVOCACY                              |         | CORRECTIONS                                                               |         |
| COURSE NAME                                   | CREDITS | COURSE NAME                                                               | CREDITS |
| SOC265 Peace and Social Justice               | 3       | COR120 Correctional Thought and Practice                                  | 3       |
| POL207 The Courts                             | 3       | COR231 Juvenile Justice Systems                                           | 3       |
| POL400 Constitution, Liberty and Order        | 3       | COR420 Agency Management                                                  | 3       |
| JUS425 Evidence-Based Child Advocacy          | 3       | COR245 Probation, Parole and Community Corrections                        | 3       |
| (FOR105 and SOC360 previously taken in major) |         | FOR423 Case Management                                                    | 3       |
|                                               |         | (FOR365 or PSY269 previously taken in major from the pick list in Year 4) |         |

### Dual Enrollment/4+1

Students who wish to be promoted to leadership positions in the field or practice clinical work in the future will eventually need to complete their graduate degree. Taking advantage of the dual enrollment opportunity allows graduate-level classes in students' senior year to count toward their undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously saving both time and money. Most MSCJ graduate degrees can be completed in one year or less.

| YEAR 4                                                   |                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FOURTH YEAR FALL                                         | FOURTH YEAR SPRING                                                          |
| *PSY520 Statistical Applications for Forensic Psychology | *PSY635 Cultural Competence in Professional Practice in Forensic Psychology |
| FOR430 Crisis Intervention                               | DEC400 Dragon Education: Impact                                             |
| SOC360 Multicultural Issues in Society                   | JUS461 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice                                   |
| Open Elective (200 level or above)                       | FOR460 Psychology and Law                                                   |
| SCS470 Internship I                                      | SCS471 Internship II                                                        |

\*Signifies a graduate-level class.



# Stay on track!

## YEAR 1

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure your plan meets your career goals and considers options such as minors, dual enrollment and unique internship opportunities.
- Consider job shadowing/exploring opportunities.
- Explore student groups, fellowships, clubs and extracurriculars on campus that apply to your career goals.
- Complete DEC100.

## YEAR 2

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Develop your resume.
- Continue job shadowing to build a professional network.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Complete DEC200.
- Begin exploring internships and graduate schools/programs (if applicable)

## YEAR 3

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Visit Career Services regularly to plan for your internship and begin practicing skills related to your upcoming job search (interview practice, dress for success seminars, etiquette 101, etc.)
- Work with the school's internship coordinator to help secure an appropriate internship.
- Fine-tune your resume and cover letter with career services.
- Complete DEC300.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Finalize graduate school plans.
- Complete your internship.

## YEAR 4

- Meet with your assigned faculty mentor and professional advisor to ensure you are on target to graduate.
- Complete/submit graduate school applications by deadlines.
- Attend the career fairs offered on campus throughout the year.
- Begin your job search and submit applications for potential opportunities.
- Complete DEC400.
- Apply for graduation through the registrar's office at TU.

