

Forensic Specialty Residency Competencies

Integration of Science and Practice

- Is able to evaluate research critically and identify how it applies to forensic practice.
- Demonstrates relevant scientific knowledge when asked to describe the basis for his / her practices and opinions.

Ethical and Legal Standards

- Has advanced knowledge of relevant ethical standards intended to guide forensic practice, including: the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct; Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists; and other relevant professional standards and guidelines.
- Has an advanced working knowledge of the law and the legal system as they pertain to forensic practice, and is knowledgeable about the applicable statutes, administrative codes, and case law in his / her jurisdiction.
- Recognizes as they arise, or foresees, ethical and legal dilemmas, and applies an ethical decision-making process in order to resolve those dilemmas.

Individual and Cultural Diversity

- Recognizes and values individual and group differences, diversity, and culture, and appreciates their impact in the psycho-legal context.
- Recognizes the effect his / her own cultural worldview and biases may have on professional work.
- Educates himself / herself about unfamiliar cultures and subcultures, and consults with or refers cases to others as deemed appropriate.

Professionalism

- Demonstrates a professional obligation to obtain and maintain an advanced knowledge and skill level related to the intersection of legal theory, precedent, and procedures with clinical practice, psychological science, and professional ethics.
- Recognizes the distinct differences between the forensic and clinical roles of psychologists.
- Understands how his / her proffered opinions may be used by fact finders and clients, and is ready, willing, and able to explain fully and to document the basis for an opinion offered in a manner that can be reasonably evaluated by decision makers.

Reflective Practice / Self-Assessment / Self Care

- Engages in ongoing self-reflection and routine assessment of his / her forensic professional practice.
- Practices with personal and professional self-awareness, within the boundaries of professional and forensic competencies, and demonstrates evidence of continued development based on self-reflection, self-assessment, and appropriate self-care.

Scientific Knowledge and Methods

- Articulates a sound scientific basis for practice activities.
- Demonstrates knowledge about scientific and scholarly developments in the field.
- Shows an understanding of the limitations of psychological knowledge as applied to psycholegal questions.

Relationships

- Recognizes the different roles and relationships inherent in the profession as well as the duties and boundaries associated with each role and relationship.
- Identifies potential conflicts that could arise in different relationships as well as possible means of responding to these conflicts.
- Recognizes when personal and professional relationships could interfere with efforts to provide an unbiased, impartial, and objective work product.

Evidence-based Practice

- Whenever possible, utilizes methods with demonstrated reliability and validity.
- Acknowledges when this is not possible and how this limitation may impact the work product.

Interdisciplinary Systems

- Demonstrates relevant knowledge of the intersection of forensic psychology practice and the law.
- Understands the nature and structure of the legal system, including principal precedents, statutes, and case law.

Assessment

- Appropriately selects, administers, scores, and interprets assessment measures and methods to address psycho-legal issues.
- Obtains data from multiple sources and methods to ensure that assessments are comprehensive, non-biased, reliable, valid, and culturally sensitive.
- Writes reports that convey clearly the relevant findings in an objective manner, supported by data, and indicates the limitations of those findings.

Consultation

- Advises courts, attorneys, and policy makers regarding matters of forensic psychology (e.g., criminal, civil, juvenile).
- Is aware of the conflict of interest between serving as a consultant and as an objective forensic psychology expert, and seeks to clarify those role boundaries with retaining parties.