

**C-9(e) P. Postdoctoral Residency Level 3 – Specialty Competencies**  
**Forensic Psychology**  
(Commission on Accreditation, September 2021)

Programs that are accredited in a substantive specialty practice area, as identified in IR C-5 P, are required to provide advanced preparation for practice in the competencies and associated elements associated with the specialty practice area. Specialty competencies must be operationalized in terms of multiple elements and must, at a minimum, reflect the bulleted content for each required specialty competency.

**I. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors**

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- behave in ways that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology and Forensic Psychology, including integrity, deportment, professional identity, accountability, lifelong learning, and concern for the welfare of others.
- engage in self-reflection regarding one's personal and professional functioning; engage in activities to maintain and improve performance, well-being, and professional effectiveness.
- actively seek and demonstrate openness and responsiveness to feedback and supervision.
- respond professionally in increasingly complex situations with a greater degree of independence.
- demonstrate understanding of the distinct differences between forensic and clinical professional roles.
- demonstrate an emerging professional identity consistent with the Forensic Psychology specialty.

**II. Communication and Interpersonal Skills**

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- develop and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of individuals, including colleagues, communities, organizations, supervisors, supervisees, and those receiving professional services.
- demonstrates the ability to recognize potential conflicts that could arise in professional relationships, including those that could interfere with efforts to provide an unbiased, impartial, and objective opinion, and identifies possible means of responding to these conflicts.
- demonstrate effective interpersonal skills and the ability to manage difficult communication well.
- understands how 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.

**III. Assessment**

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the limits of psychological knowledge as applied to psycholegal questions.

- appropriately select, administer, score, and interpret assessment methods that draw from the best available empirical literature and that reflect the science of measurement and psychometrics and methods to answer psycho-legal questions.
- obtain data from multiple sources and methods to ensure that assessments are comprehensive, non-biased, reliable, valid, and culturally sensitive.
- communicate orally and in written documents the findings and implications of assessment in an accurate and objective manner, supported by data, and indicating the limitations of those findings.
- utilize methods with demonstrated reliability and validity and, when a clear evidence base is lacking, acknowledge the impact this has on assessment findings.

#### **IV. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills**

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate the ability to advise courts, attorneys, and policy makers regarding matters of Forensic Psychology (e.g., criminal, civil, juvenile).
- demonstrate awareness of conflicts of interest between serving as a consultant and as an objective Forensic Psychology expert and seeks those role boundaries with retaining parties.