



**The term “focus” should be used to describe opportunities in areas of training which are not recognized specialties. Training programs should strive to provide explicit explanations of the type of training provided in these non-specialty areas.

Forensic Psychology E & T Taxonomy was approved by CoS Board of Directors on 11- 05-2022. CoS will request an updated Taxonomy for CoS review and approval one year prior to Forensic Psychology’s next petition for renewal of specialty recognition by the Commission for Recognition of Specialties and Subsidiaries in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP). The updated Taxonomy will be due at end of 2028.

Common Definitions and Criteria Across All Recognized Specialties
Clarifications to help recognized specialties use the APA-Taxonomy* in a consistent manner

- Broad and general training forms the core of education and training in health service psychology. Programs are accredited by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association. Programs integrate the broad and general training with those educational and training activities related to recognized specialties as determined by the specialty and described in a specialty taxonomy. In addition, each specialty will have education and training guidelines consistent with its specialty area. Specialty training may be acquired at the doctoral, doctoral internship, postdoctoral, or postlicensure stages as defined by the specialty.
- By definition, postdoctoral education and training is a Major Area of Study in a specialty recognized by the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Subspecialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP) and requires that 80% or more of time be spent in the specialty area. At the postdoctoral training stage, as per above, it is recognized that training in the Major Area of Study will be consistent with the education and training guidelines set forth by the specialty.
- A course is typically defined as 3 semester-credit hours (or equivalent) in a health service psychology training program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA).
- A practicum is typically defined as the equivalent of one academic year (e.g., 9 months, in semester or quarter systems) consisting of supervised training for at least 8 hours per week, or its equivalent, with at least 50% of time in the provision of clinical services.
- Consistent with what is described in CoA *Standards of Accreditation*, supervision should be provided by persons with competencies in the specialty demonstrated by appropriate training, credentials, and qualifications for training in the specialty as defined by the specialty.
- Additional training experiences can also include, but are not limited to, research experiences, lab meetings, brown bags, lecture/colloquia series, and grand rounds, as defined by the specialty.
- For definitions of continuing education (CE) and continuing professional development (CPD) see the APA [Quality Professional Development and Continuing Education Resolution](#). A continuing education (CE) course is defined as an organized program by the American

Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association, a State Psychological Association, or other major provider of CE (e.g., Society of Behavioral Medicine).

* Taxonomy; www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/taxonomy.pdf

Specialty Specific Definitions and Criteria

¹**Forensic psychology or psychology-law course** - Must be related to forensic psychology as defined in APA's Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology (<https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/forensic-psychology>) or be an integrative law-psychology course and be taken for at least 3 hours of credit. A forensic or psychology and law project refers to empirical research, extended case studies, literature critiques & analyses, or capstone projects that programs require.

²**Clinical practicum with forensic content** - Minimum experience of 9 months of applied supervised training for at least 8 hours per week (at least 50% clinical contact with forensic-involved-individuals. These are individuals who are involved in the legal system, are at risk for involvement in litigation or the legal system, or who are being evaluated or treated for legal purposes).

³**Supervised experience** - Must include at least 50% of time in the provision of forensic services (e.g., assessment, treatment, consultation). If offered, seminar attendance, interdisciplinary team participation, readings, and research may count as part of the supervised experience for interns & postdoctoral fellows.

⁴**Forensic CE** - Continuing Education (CE) coursework must be approved by APA or by another major mental health or medical organization. CEs should be forensic focused, such as those offered by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP).

⁵**Supervised forensic psychology practice** - 100% time devoted to service delivery (e.g., direct assessment (does not include report writing time), treatment, consultation) to forensic-involved-individuals (i.e., individuals who are involved in the legal system, are at risk for involvement in litigation or the legal system, or who are being evaluated or treated for legal purposes) with supervision by a licensed psychologist with competencies in forensic psychology as demonstrated by appropriate training, credentials, and qualifications. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to be board certified in forensic psychology.

Examples of Program Descriptors for Each Stage of Training

Doctoral

The clinical psychology doctoral program at X University is accredited by the APA and offers a Major Area of Study in Forensic Psychology. Students in this training program must complete at least three forensic or psychology-law courses, and a forensic or psychology-law project.

Within the Department of Psychology, there is additional didactic training in specific areas of forensic psychology in which the forensic psychology students will take part.

Doctoral internship

Our APA-accredited internship program offers an Experience in Forensic Psychology, with at least 50% of the intern's time dedicated to training in forensic psychology. In addition to clinical training, the program offers didactic experiences focused in the area of forensic psychology. Alternatively, should an intern elect, our program offers an Exposure in Forensic Psychology, which includes the option of participating in the aforementioned didactics and/or supervised clinical training in forensic psychology for at least 20% of the training year.

Postdoctoral residency

The 1-year postdoctoral residency program at X University offers a Major Area of Study in Forensic Psychology. Residents will spend at least 80% of their time in supervised experience involving forensic assessment and/ or treatment.

Post- licensure training

Our online educational program provides an *Exposure* to forensic psychology through our offering of APA-approved continuing education (CE) courses in Competencies in the Criminal Process (4 CE credits) and Malingering in Forensic Evaluations (4 CE Credits).