The Forensic Psychology major is designed for students who are interested in the relationship between psychology and the criminal justice system. The program offers training in psychological theory, research methods, and the application of psychological principles to specific areas in the legal system. The major provides a background appropriate for students who intend to pursue careers in psychology, social work, law enforcement, or other criminal justice professions.

Students in this major will explore sub-disciplines in Psychology, statistics and research methods, while also discussing ethics, values, and careers in Psychology. Students who wish to practice Psychology professionally will need some kind of graduate degree, such as a Master's in Social Work (MSW), Forensic Psychology or Mental Health Counseling. Another option would be to pursue a doctoral degree (PhD or PsyD) in Psychology. Speak with the Forensic Psychology coordinator to learn about the many kinds of interesting work that a Forensic Psychologist might engage in!

**WHAT WILL YOU LEARN ABOUT IN THIS MAJOR?**

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**IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL**

- Read textbooks and journal articles
- Understand psychological theories and how to apply them effectively
- Search for and critique research studies
- Write research papers
- Discuss psychological analyses
- Have the opportunity to conduct research studies

**FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR**

- **PSY 101**: Introduction to Psychology
- **PSY 200**: Cognitive Psychology
- **PSY 221**: Social Psychology
- **PSY 231**: Developmental Psychology

See further major requirements at: [http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/642.php](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/642.php)

"The psychology program at John Jay is unprecedented in its array of faculty representing a variety of specializations within forensic psychology. They are enthusiastic and eager to help guide students in pursuit of academic success and development. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the time and effort my advisor provided!"

— Recent Alumna currently earning her PhD in Clinical Forensic Psychology
“What is Forensic Psychology? It’s not Silence of the Lambs! But those in the field study issues related to psychology and the law, they work to assist, inform and improve the legal system, they strive to improve the lives of victims, witnesses and perpetrators, and to help those in need.”

— Dr. Angela Crossman, Forensic Psychology professor

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Differentiate between theory and empirical findings
- Distinguish subjective, professional knowledge from research knowledge
- Critique primary source materials
- Hypothesis testing
- Data analysis
- Research Writing (APA Style)

DEPENDING ON YOUR INTERESTS, WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Law
- Human Services
- Sociology
- Criminology
- Police Studies

For more information about minors, go to: http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/662.php

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Conduct research with professors – best way to learn about the field and earn a great recommendation letter for graduate school!
- Fieldwork opportunities – get some experience and see if you like the work.
- John Jay Psy Chi Chapter – Honor Society in Psychology; offers information about graduate school and social events.
- Addiction Studies Program – The CASAC program provides a unique opportunity to be trained for clinical work at the BA level.
- BA/MA Program – earn BOTH a BA and an MA in 5 (instead of 6) years! see if you like the work.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

Social Worker: (MSW; LCSW)

Law Enforcement: Police, Corrections or FBI Officer (BA; but MA pays higher salary; FBI often seeks PhD or those with special skills)

Counselor: (Master’s in [Forensic] Mental Health Counseling)

Forensic Psychologist: (PhD or PsyD, which are doctoral degrees)

Lawyer: (JD)

Psychiatrist: (MD)

College Professor: (PhD or PsyD, doctoral degrees)

For more detailed information on these career ideas and for additional ones, contact:

Center for Career & Professional Development
(L.72.00 New Building)
Phone: 212.237.8754
Email: careers@jjay.cuny.edu
http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/1614.php