

Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology

51 units

Course Requirements

Course #	Course Title	Units
Core Requirements		
CJS 510	Legal Research and Writing	2
CJS 520	Criminal Law	3
CJS 530	Theories and Perspectives of Criminal Behavior	3
CJS 580	Criminal Evidence	3
FPY 500	Advanced Statistics Seminar	3
FPY 505	Research Methods in Forensic Psychology	3
FPY 515	Crisis Intervention and Brief Psychotherapy	2
FPY 525	Forensic Evaluation	3
FPY 540	Psychology and the Law	3
FPY 545	Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology	2
FPY 550	Victimology	3
FPY 555	Psychology, Law, & Public Policy	3
FPY 560	Forensic Practicum I	2
FPY 565	Forensic Practicum II	2
FPY 570	Thesis I: Literature Review and Research Proposal	3
FPY 575	Thesis II: Methodology/Results/Discussion	3
FPY 585	Memory and Perception in the Courtroom	2
FPY 595	Special Topics	3
PSY 535	Advanced Psychopathology	3
Total Units Required		51

CJS 510 Legal Research and Writing (2)

This course provides an introduction to legal research methods, including state and federal reported cases, digests, annotated codes, state and federal administrative regulations, and computerized legal research, as well as an introduction to the writing of case briefs and memoranda.

CJS 520 Criminal Law (3)

Nature of criminal law; philosophical and historical development; major definitions and concepts; classification of crime; elements of crimes and penalties using California and federal statutes as illustrations; defenses to criminal responsibility; criminal responsibility.

CJS 530 Theories and Perspectives of Criminal Behavior (3)

A study in the traditional and theoretical schools of criminology. Theories relating to individual abnormality and theories relating to cultural influences are examined. Theories of the causes of delinquency and data on delinquent behavior including gangs, minor and major criminal actions and methods of correction are also covered.

CJS 580 Criminal Evidence (3)

This course is an advanced examination of aspects of evidence acquisition, evaluation, and preservation with special consideration of the legal context including its use in the trial process. The course is designed to provide additional insights concerning the proper use of evidence and its admissibility. A review of the basics of collecting, preserving and presenting evidence and the latest developments in the laws of evidence will be presented also. With support from such items as judicial decisions and various rules of evidence, the course will focus on the types, relevancy, exceptions and exclusions of evidence in today's American court system. There will be materials on, and discussion about, such topics as the history and study of criminal evidence, methods by which proof of facts and events can be accomplished, admissibility of different types of evidence, and improperly obtained evidence.

FPY 500 Advanced Statistics Seminar (3)

This course introduces graduate students to multivariate statistics. This course will review Univariate and Bivariate statistics, Multiple Regression, Analysis of Covariance, Multivariate Analysis of Variance and Covariance, Profile Analysis, Discriminant Analysis, Survival/Failure Analysis, and Structural Equation Modeling.

FPY 505 Research Methods in Forensic Psychology (3)

This course examines the nature of the research process emphasizing the formulation of investigative questions and testable hypotheses. The course reviews methods of data collection, data analysis and report writing.

FPY 515 Crisis Intervention and Brief Psychotherapy (2)

This course considers the multiple approaches to crisis intervention, with emphasis on systemic theories for dealing with trauma, emotional distress, and appropriate interventions for law enforcement officers in dealing with family disputes, suicides and hostage situations.

FPY 525 Forensic Evaluation (3)

This course of study focuses on the difficulties facing mental health professionals in the evaluation and treatment of sex offenders. Students will be introduced to theories and concepts of assessment and treatment, as well as the developmental and intrapsychic dynamics of sex offenders.

FPY 540 Psychology and the Law (3)

This course is designed to instill a broad understanding of the issues/areas within the field of forensic psychology. This broad understanding will include the areas of psychology, law, criminal justice, and forensic mental health. Students will be given the opportunity to gain this basic knowledge and will be expected to critically analyze theories, policies, research, and practices within the field of forensic psychology.

FPY 545 Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology (2)

This course reviews ethical issues and mental health law.

FPY 550 Victimology (3)

This course concentrates on the social attitudes toward victims and the interaction of the victim with the criminal justice system. Theoretical and clinical profiles of victims will be highlighted in this course.

FPY 555 Psychology, Law & Public Policy (3)

This course is designed to instill a basic understanding of how psychology, law, and public policy interact in American society by exposing the students to a variety of socially relevant topics, theories, issues, and authors. This course seeks to expose students to a myriad of contexts in which law and psychology intersect, and topics addressed will include both criminal and civil issues.

FPY 560 Forensic Practicum I (2)

This course will serve as a supplement to the student's academic and field placement experience. Within a small group setting, students and professors will discuss issues and linkages between their academic work and their field placement experience. This may best be described as a weekly, small group supervision process allowing students to concretize theoretical models utilized within the culture of forensic practice.

FPY 565 Forensic Practicum II (2)

A continuation of Forensic Practicum I.

FPY 570 Thesis I: Literature Review and Research Proposal (3)

This course will introduce the student to the style and organization of the thesis requirement. Sections of the thesis to be developed will be the Abstract (a brief summary of both the problem or question and results); Introduction (a definition or description of the problems or question and a statement of the study's purpose and rationale); Methodology (information regarding the subject's mechanics and procedures of the project).

Continued on the next page...

**FPY 575 Thesis II:
Methodology/Results/Discussion
(1-3)**

A continuation of FPY 570. Sections of the thesis to be developed will be Methodology (information regarding the subject's mechanics and procedures of the project); Results (this may include tables, figures, statistical analysis, or qualitative narrative outcomes); Discussion (this section will include a cogent and critical analysis of the implications of the findings, as well as any conclusions which may be drawn); References (this will reflect a careful review of the literature specific to the subject being studied); Appendices (this may include items such as letters, measurements, or other written materials used or analyzed in the study).

**FPY 581 Collaborative Research
Project I (2)**

This course will expose students to the application of graduate level research. The students will complete a research project under the direct supervision of a forensic faculty member. Students will be responsible for research and design of their project to provide an application of previously acquired skills in a forensic setting. The emphasis will be on the literature search and proposal of the project to IRB.

**FPY 582 Collaborative Research
Project II (2)**

This is a continuation of Collaborative Research Project 1. The students will finish their research projects previously started in the other course under the direct supervision of a forensic faculty member. The emphasis will be on the collection of data and analysis of results of their research project.

**FPY 583 Collaborative Research
Project III (2)**

This is a continuation of Collaborative Research Project II. The students present their finished research projects in a colloquium setting. Students are encouraged to adapt their projects into either conference presentation or peer-reviewed journal article publications.

**FPY 585 Memory and Perception in
the Courtroom (2)**

This course will examine carefully the current research on eyewitness performance in the courtroom, including the research on the effectiveness of witnesses testifying to traumatic events. In addition, emphasis will be given to the impact of witness errors on police identification procedures.

FPY 595 Special Topics (1-3)

This course is designed to be an in-depth seminar on a selected topic within Forensic Psychology.

**PSY 535 Advanced
Psychopathology (3)**

Nature and causes of reactions to social, biological and psychological stress, maladaptive development, and faulty learning. Includes an in depth study of anxiety disorders, character disorders, and the psychoses