

CAREER QUICK FACTS: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Career Center

Forensic psychology is the psychological assessment of individuals who are involved in the legal system in some way. A common misconception about forensic psychologists is that they serve as criminal profilers like you might see on shows such as, *Criminal Minds*. In reality, forensic psychologists use their expertise to analyze and provide recommendations on the following:

- Threat assessments for schools
- Child custody cases
- Competency assessments for criminal defendants
- Counseling services for victims
- Treatment for adult and juvenile offenders
- Selection of law enforcement applicants

Important Skills: Clinical assessment, report writing, data analysis, legal expertise, verbal communication (especially in the context of testifying in court proceedings), case presentation, critical thinking

Source: American Psychological Association

How do I become a Forensic Psychologist?

In order to achieve the title of forensic psychologist, you must have a doctoral (PhD or PsyD) degree from an APA (American Psychological Association)- or CPA (Canadian Psychological Association)-accredited program. You can earn a PhD in clinical psychology specializing in clinical-forensic or clinical-legal fields. You must complete two years of professional experience, including a one-year predoctoral internship. Additional requirements may include state licensing, oral and written exams, and board certification.

Source: American Psychological Association

Career Outlook

Projected Job Growth 2022–2032: 6%

- Average job growth for all occupations is 3%

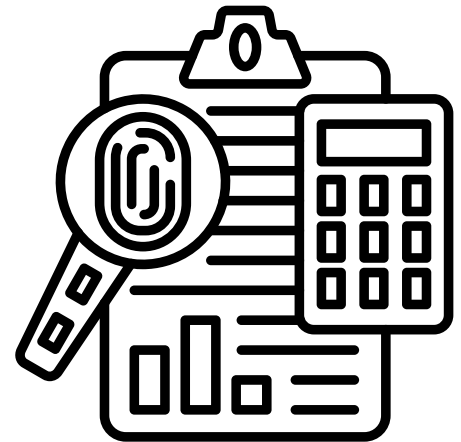
Median Annual Salary: \$85, 330

- Median salaries represent the exact middle point of salaries for this career (half are higher, half are lower).
- This is not an expectation for your *starting* salary. You will likely start at a lower salary and may see increases as you progress through your career.

*According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov) for all psychologists

Related Career Paths

- Crime Analyst
- Forensic Analyst
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Victim Advocate
- Counselor
- Law Clerk
- Forensic Social Worker
- Paralegal
- Probation Officer
- Correctional Counselor
- Jury Consultant
- Research Assistant
- Forensic Case Manager
- Investigative Analyst



The following minors and undergraduate certificates may be helpful in pursuit of this career field.

Minors to Consider

Cognitive Science – Criminal Justice Studies – Human Development and Family Science – Law, Ethics, and Philosophy – Law, Jurisprudence and the State – Military Science – Public Policy and Management – Social Work

Certificates to Consider

Cybersecurity and Privacy – Leadership and Service – Legal Studies

Courses to Consider

*PHIL 2010, 2020, 2030
PSYC 3230 Psychopathology
PSYC 5240 Judgment and Decision Making
PSYC 4200 Social Psychology
SOC 3810 Criminology
SOC 3270, 3280, 3730, 4800, 4830*

*Want to talk to a Forensic Psychologist?
Check out the UGA Mentor Program!*

