

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%

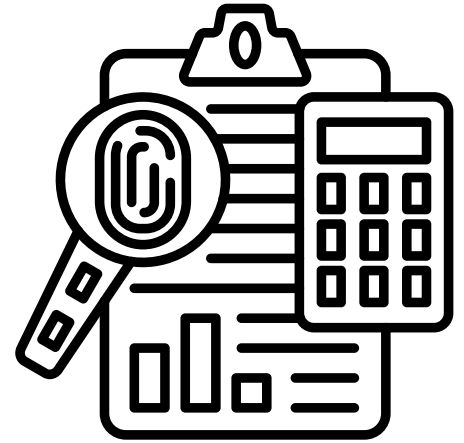
Median Annual Salary: \$85, 330

- 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

*Anthropology – Biology – Chemistry
Cognitive Science – Criminal Justice
Studies – Forensic Science – Philosophy –
Sociology – Law, Ethics, and Philosophy –
Military Science Public Policy and
Management*

Certificates to Consider

*Cybersecurity and Privacy – Leadership
and Service – Legal Studies*

Courses to Consider

*ANTH 2020 Forensic Anthropology
PHIL 2010, 2020, 2030
PSYC 3100 Forensic Psychology
PSYC 3230 Psychopathology
PSYC 5240 Judgment and Decision Making
PSYC 4200 Social Psychology
SOCL 3810 Criminology
SOCL 3270, 3280, 3730, 4800, 4830*

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

