

# MAJOR

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY ■ New Building, 10.65.35 ■ 212-237-8771

[www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments-psychology](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments-psychology)

See all major requirements at: [www.jjay.cuny.edu/forensic-psychology-major-resources](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/forensic-psychology-major-resources)

## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

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 major advisor to learn about the many kinds of interesting work that a Forensic Psychologist might engage in! Email [psychologyadvising@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:psychologyadvising@jjay.cuny.edu)

### 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

**Understand** the socio-cultural influences on human development and behavior

**Participate** in and conduct research

### FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

**PSY 101:** Introduction to Psychology

**PSY 200:** Cognitive Psychology

**PSY 221:** Social Psychology

**PSY 231:** Developmental Psychology

**PSY 242:** Abnormal Psychology

**STA 250:** Principles and Methods of Statistics

*“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 Ph.D. 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)

## WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Law
- Counseling
- Sociology
- Criminology
- Police Studies

For more information about minors, go to:

[www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors)

## 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) or Paralegal (certificate)
- Psychiatrist: (MD)
- College Professor: (PhD or PsyD, doctoral degrees)