

Online Professional Certificate in Forensic Psychology



Find Your Niche in the Criminal Justice System

Ideal for Professionals in Social Work, Intelligence, Nursing, Public Health, Paralegal, and Psychology

The field of forensic psychology examines the intersection between human behavior and the law. In partnership with SDSU's Department of Psychology, and the Homeland Security graduate program, SDSU Global Campus offers this comprehensive online program specifically designed for professionals at the forefront of dealing with all aspects of criminal behavior. The justice system increasingly relies on forensic psychology skills to help solve crimes and prevent future criminal behavior. This certificate provides students with the knowledge and skills being sought by employers.

Program Highlights

- Eight-week courses
- Authorized by SDSU's College of Sciences
- Earn 3 professional development credits per course
- Instructors are content specialists with real-world experience
- Complete in as few as eight months or take up to two years
- \$699 per course

Certificate Requirements

To earn the Professional Certificate in Forensic Psychology, you must successfully complete two (2) core courses and three (3) electives. If your background is unrelated to forensic psychology, we highly recommend you begin with the core courses.

Program Overview

- Estimated Cost: \$3,495
- Min. Completion Time: 8 Months
- Course Format: Online

Course Schedule

Fall 2021

PSY 0051 Mental Health and Criminal Justice* | 10/19–12/12

PSY 0054 Cyberpsychology | 10/19–12/12

PSY 0057 Forensic Assessment | 10/19–12/12

Spring 2022

PSY 0050 Fundamentals of Forensic Psychology* | 1/19–3/13

PSY 0052 Mental Health in Police and Corrections | 1/19–3/13

PSY 0058 Forensic Report Writing | 1/19–3/13

PSY 0051 Mental Health and Criminal Justice* | 3/14–5/8

PSY 0055 Expert Witness Courtroom and Deposition Testimony | 3/14–5/8

PSY 0056 Forensic Psych-Active Shooter (FPAS) | 3/14–5/8

*If you've completed relevant coursework and/or have three years of related professional experience, one of the core courses can be waived upon approval of the faculty director.

For more information, email globalcampus@sdsu.edu or call (619) 594-7700.

SDSU Global Campus is a state-approved provider for the Federal Workforce Investment Act for this program.

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Core Courses

PSY 0050 Fundamentals of Forensic Psychology

Get an in-depth introduction to the wide-range field of forensic psychology and the relationship between psychology and law. You'll examine the position and responsibilities of forensic psychologists in police work, criminal investigation, investigate behavioral analysis, threat assessment, eyewitness identification, school bullying, mental defenses and competency issues, sexual abuse issues, juvenile forensics and death penalty cases, and jury selection.

PSY 0051 Mental Health and Criminal Justice

This course provides an overview of the psychological disorders across a lifespan, including their diagnosis, etiology, and treatment. This course will emphasize empirical research methods and findings, although case examples and general theoretical perspectives are covered as background.

Elective Courses

PSY 0052 Mental Health in Police and Corrections

In this course, we'll focus on police psychology and correctional psychology, how mental health issues affect these fields, and how to identify and respond as officers to inmates or patients with these concerns.

PSY 0054 Cyberpsychology

Cyberpsychology is an emerging field that blends developing technology and psychological concepts. Cyberpsychology is the study of how humans are impacted by technology, how individuals interact on the Internet, and the effect of cyberspace interactions on mental health. This class will focus on these issues as well as online identities, cyberbullying, online dating, and cybercrime.

PSY 0055 Expert Witness Courtroom and Deposition Testimony

This course is intended to introduce students to the fundamentals of expert witness testimony. Students will learn the roles and responsibilities of expert witnesses, how to prepare for testimony, and what to expect from direct and cross-examination.

PSY 0056 Forensic Psych-Active Shooter

This course is tailored to engage the participant's subconscious, allowing implicit action to occur when the brain is faced with alarming circumstances. It enhances a person's awareness, improves their mood, and most importantly, enables them to perform at a level of proficiency they would not otherwise be capable of. This mental state of cognizance is what we strive to instill in all our participants enrolled.

PSY 0057 Forensic Assessment

Learn about the components of forensic assessment, including record review, forensic interviews, collateral interviews, and testing. The factors that lend themselves to both "strong" and "weak" assessments will be discussed, as will the ethics of forensic assessment and the inherent biases of the examiner. This course will help prepare you to arrive at well-supported findings on which future forensic reports and expert witness testimony may be based.

PSY 0058 Forensic Report Writing

This course will introduce you to elements of forensic report writing, including format, content, and clarity. The factors that lend themselves to both "strong" and "weak" reports will be discussed, as will the ethics of report writing and the inherent biases of the examiner. This course will help prepare you to communicate with courts and administrative bodies in writing and offer well-supported findings on which future expert witness testimony may be based.

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