

MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The master's program in forensic psychology addresses the justice system's critical need for professionals specializing in investigative psychology, criminal profiling, threat assessment, and evaluation and treatment of justice-involved individuals and victims of crime. Students in the program are dedicated to making a difference within the criminal justice system, whether working in law enforcement, homeland security, correctional systems, or organizations that provide services to justice involved individuals and victims of crime.

The program provides a strong foundation in the field of forensic psychology, and offers students the opportunity to complete courses and externship training opportunities tailored to their interests. In courses ranging from psychopathology to law, students examine the psychological underpinnings of human behavior for those involved in the legal system. They also explore current approaches and interventions for individuals dealing with mental illness and the methods and professional issues faced in investigative work, while learning techniques for successfully presenting expert testimony and advocating for at-risk individuals or populations. Day, evening and weekend classes are offered to accommodate both full-time students and working professionals.

Visit the program website (<https://forensicspsychology.columbian.gwu.edu>) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning in January, with a final deadline of April 1 (February 1 for fellowship consideration).

Spring - Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning in August, with a final deadline of October 1.

Applications submitted after the deadlines indicated above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Standardized test scores: GRE general test (institutional code 5246). Waived for applicants who hold a JD, MD, or PhD.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 53

Recommended: One (1) recommendation required:

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250-500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in forensic psychology. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application.

Additional requirements: An interview is required for those applicants whose application is deemed by the faculty to indicate a high probability of success in the program. Applicants for whom a personal interview would create an undue hardship may request that the interview be conducted telephonically.

Interview: An interview is required.

International applicants only: Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

37 credits, including 25 credits in required courses, 12 credits in elective courses, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
FORP 6101	Psychology and the Legal System I	
FORP 6102	Psychology and the Legal System II	
FORP 6103	Theories of Criminal Behavior	
FORP 6104	Psychopathology	
FORP 6105	Basics of Psychological Assessment	
FORP 6106	Ethics in Forensic Psychology	
FORP 6107	Research and Statistics	
FORP 6108	Consultation and Testimony	
FORP 6130	Practicum/Externship	

Potential curriculum paths

Applied forensics

Four of the following recommended elective courses:

FORP 6117	Interrogation and Interviewing	
FORP 6118	Psychological Profiling	
FORP 6119	Police Psychology	
FORP 6120	Counterintelligence	
FORP 6128	Terrorism and Counterterrorism	
FORP 6129	Investigative and Police Psychology	
FORP 6150	Advanced Topics in Forensic Psychology	

Applied psychology

Four of the following recommended elective courses:

FORP 6109	Rehabilitation and Treatment of Incarcerated Individuals	
FORP 6110	Violence Risk and Threat Assessment	

FORP 6111	Evaluation and Treatment of Sex Offenders	
FORP 6112	Substance Abuse Evaluation and Treatment	
FORP 6113	Victimology	
FORP 6115	Children and Adolescents in the Legal System	
FORP 6131	Individuals with Mental Illness in the Legal System	
FORP 6150	Advanced Topics in Forensic Psychology	

Other requirements

Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination is required.