

# forensic psychology { defined:

## **The American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP)**

originated from a Specialty Certification Study Committee of the American Psychology-Law Society. ABFP was established in 1978 to protect consumers of forensic psychological services by establishing, promoting, and revising the standards and qualifications for those who practice forensic psychology and certifying as specialists in Forensic Psychology those voluntary applicants who qualify under the standards established by the board. The ABFP operates as a specialty of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

## **Forensic Psychology**

Forensic Psychology is a distinct specialty pertaining to the interface of psychology and the law. The ABFP defines the specialty broadly as the application of the science and profession of psychology to the questions and issues relating to the law and the legal system. Some practice areas include, but are not limited to: Forensic Examination, Treatment/Direct Services, workplace issues, Arbitration and Mediation Services, Consultation, Litigation Support, Research in Forensic Psychology and Teaching in Forensic Psychology.

## **Foundation Areas in Forensic Psychology**

### **Research Design, Methodology, and Statistical Analysis applied to forensic areas**

### **Ethical Issues in Assessment, Treatment, Consultation, Research, and Program Evaluation related to forensic issues**

### **Fundamentals of Law**

### **Application of Psychology in Legal Contexts Law Affecting Psychological Practice**

### **Testimonial Accuracy**

## **ABPP Central Office**

American Board of Professional Psychology  
600 Market Street, Suite 201  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Phone: 919-537-8031  
Email: office@abpp.org

[www.abpp.org](http://www.abpp.org)

## **Requirements for Board Certification**

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the forensic psychologist specialist has successfully completed the educational, training, and experience requirements of the specialty. Organizations other than ABFP/ABPP also have been known to offer "Board Certification" or some related designation in the specialty of Forensic Psychology. It is the position of ABFP, however, that certain substantive and procedural elements are necessary to maintain integrity and quality control in a legitimate certification process in a psychological specialty.

## **General Eligibility Requirements**

To attain ABPP board certification an applicant must hold a doctoral degree from a program in professional psychology which, at the time the degree was granted, was accredited by the APA, CPA, or was listed in the publication *Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting Designation Criteria*. Applicants credentialed in the most recent directory of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology or the Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology qualify as meeting the doctoral degree requirements as well as those holding the Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ).

All ABPP candidates in the U.S., its territories or Canada must be licensed as a psychologist for independent practice at the doctoral level in a jurisdiction in the U.S., its territories or Canada.

## **Specialty Specific Eligibility Requirements**

At least 100 hours of qualifying specialized training in forensic psychology obtained after the completion of the doctoral degree. This may consist of APA-approved continuing education in forensic psychology, the accumulated hours of one-on-one supervision by a qualified forensic professional, and/or completing a formal didactic graduate-level course after the completion of the doctoral degree;

AND

Experience in forensic psychology after the completion of the doctoral degree obtained by either a) accumulating 1000 hours of direct experience in forensic psychology over a minimum of five years, or b) completing a full-time, at least 2000 hour, formal postdoctoral training program in forensic psychology that has been accepted as meeting ABFP's training requirements. The current list of these programs may be found in the document "ABFP Experience Waiver & Postdoc Training Guidelines" in the Forensic Psychology document library on the ABPP website. An earned LL.B. or J.D. degree may be substituted for two of the five years of experience; however, the requirement of 1000 hours of experience must still be met. The minimum of five years of experience is waived for those who have already obtained ABPP certification in any specialty area.

## **Fees**

\$125 fee for application and credential review to establish candidacy.  
\$250 fee for the practice sample review and establishment of the oral examination team.

\$300 for the written exam.

\$550 for the oral examination.

These fees are due sequentially over the time span necessary to complete all of the candidacy and examination steps. Upon granting Board certification a yearly fee of \$185 is assessed to support the many services of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and the profession.