

Forensic Psychology
Bachelor of Science
2025-2026

General Areas of Service: Forensic psychology is the interface between psychology and the law. All psychological services provided for the legal community are forensic psychological services. Forensic psychologists are employed by family, civil, and criminal courts. Most forensic psychologists provide services that are both forensic and clinical in nature.

Nature of Work: In the civil court, psychologists can be called on to provide assessments of whether someone was harmed by an event, such as a car accident or a sexual harassment case. In this area, the forensic psychologist might be required to provide treatment recommendations, analyze the specific treatment needs of an individual, and determine the potential cost of such treatment. In the family law court, they mainly assess the child's best interest in cases of parental disputes. Forensic psychologists are perhaps most recognized for their involvement in criminal law. Psychologists provide the courts with analysis regarding criminal insanity and trial competence. They help courts decide whether sex offenders are likely to re-offend or are dangerous. They provide information and recommendations necessary for jury selection, sentencing, grants of probation, and conditions of parole. Forensic psychologists are routinely called upon in death penalty cases to provide analysis of the intentions, motivations, and personality characteristics of the accused. In juvenile courts, they are often asked to help determine whether a youthful offender can be rehabilitated. They assist prosecutors, defenders, and law enforcement investigators in understanding a range of normal and criminal behaviors, sometimes serving as "criminal profilers."

Professional Training: A bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology can lead to careers in law enforcement or parole and probation. Those wishing to pursue a career in profiling or court consulting go on to graduate school and obtain their master's or doctoral degree.

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "overall employment for psychologists is projected to grow 7 percent from 2023 to 2033, faster than the average for all occupations." (See www.bls.gov) The American Psychological Association (APA) reports that forensic psychologists are needed in "prisons, rehabilitation centers, police departments, courthouses, law firms, schools, government agencies or private practices." Those with a doctoral degree will enjoy the best job prospects, according to the APA. (See www.apa.org)

Earnings: Earnings vary widely depending on specialty and years of experience. PayScale.com reports that most forensic psychologists earned an annual base salary ranging from \$50,000 to \$125,000, with a median salary of \$79,000. (See payscale.com)

Note: Before graduation, all students must take an exit exam.

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION &
PSYCHOLOGY**

Smith Hall
(509) 527-2211

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[School of Education & Psychology](#)

Faculty

Dean
[Maria Bastien Valenca](#)

Advisors

[Melody Ezpeleta](#)
[Linda Ivy](#)
[Stephanie Onthank](#)

Professional Organizations

[Psychology Information Online](#)

[All Criminal Justice Schools](#)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr. GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 66-70 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology.

Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Intro to the Psychology Major (PSYC 120)	0
Intro to Psych: Social Foundations (PSYC 140)	4
Intro to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
General Studies/General Electives	9
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Intro to Psych: Biological Foundations (PSYC 141)	4
Intro to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Cultural Anthropology (ANTH225)	4
General Studies/General Electives	5
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Philosophy Option (PHIL 204 OR 205)	4
Current Social Problems (SOCI 234)	4
General Studies	8
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Research Writing in Education and Psychology (PSYC 223)	3
Biology Option (BIOL 121 OR 141)	4
+ Intro to Criminal Justice (CORR 285)	4
General Studies/General Electives	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Research Methods and Stats I (PSYC 271)	4
Biology Option (BIOL 122 OR 142)	4
Developmental Psychology (PSYC 215)	4
+ Criminology (CORR 385)	4
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Research Methods & Stats II (PSYC 272)	4
+ Intro to Forensic Psychology (PSYC 247)	4
+ Juvenile Delinquency (CORR 387)	4
Biology Option (BIOL 123 OR 143)	4
General Studies/General Electives	1
Total	15 16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
General Studies/General Electives	16
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Theories of Personality (PSYC 366)	4
General Studies/General Electives	12
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Social Psychology (PSYC 344)	4
-Advanced Forensic Psychology (PSYC 447)	4
-Psychological Testing (PSYC 430)	3
Colloquium: Orientation and Degree Completion (PSYC 495)	0
General Studies/General Electives	5
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Psychology Practicum (PSYC 493)	3
General Studies/General Electives	13
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Studies/General Electives	16
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 492)	4
General Studies/General Electives	12
Total	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only