

# Forensic Psychologist Job Description

---

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Assist attorneys, police and law enforcement agents in investigating cases to determine the cause of crimes
- Assist investigators and the police in profiling criminals
- Provide evidence to indict or free crime suspects
- Assesses crime suspects to determine whether they are fit for trial
- Advise and administer therapy to criminals to discourage them from going back to the crime
- Assesses the behavior of inmates in correctional facilities to ascertain how they are responding to correction
- Provide reports to back up findings and assertions based on observation and research
- Provide expert evidence to the court and stand in as expert witness in certain criminal cases
- Train interns and psychology students especially those with interest in clinical psychology
- Provide expert advice to attorneys, parole officers, and other law enforcement officers
- Provide expert advice to families of convicted criminals.

## **Forensic Psychologist Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities**

- The first step to becoming a forensic psychologist is to obtain a degree in psychology. This will help you in getting an entry level role as a psychologist. However, forensic psychology is mostly offered at the Master's degree level by an APA accredited institution. To command respect and high pay/consultation fee as a Forensic Psychologist, it is equally important that you obtain a Doctoral degree
- Secondly, after your First degree, it is important to identify with a professional body as a graduate member. Depending on the country or

state where you intend to practice, some kind of exam may be conducted before you qualify as a member of the association

- Being observant is equally a very important trait to have to succeed in this career. A forensic psychologist must be attentive and detail-oriented
- He/she must possess high level of emotional maturity and should be able to make good judgment based on critical observation and precedence observation, not emotions
- Excellent report writing skill is a must have for a forensic psychologist. He/she must be able to draft accurate profile of criminals and deliver informed reports that will assist law enforcement agents in making good judgment
- Forensic psychology involves profiling, reading patterns, and creating models and arriving at conclusions. So, the psychologist must be proficient in statistical analysis
- The job involves unraveling the root cause of crime and reading human mind. So, great problem solving skill is needed. In addition, the psychologist must be patient because conducting investigation can be time consuming, and sometimes frustrating
- Knowledge of the legal system can also be an additional advantage.