

Forensic Psychology

Master of Science (On Campus Only) Master of Arts (Online Only)

In the U.S. forensic graduates obtain master's-level psychology jobs in agencies and institutions such as prisons, juvenile facilities, social service agencies, police departments, child care agencies, probation, parole, family court, addiction services, hospitals, and community mental health centers. Some students get jobs as forensic researchers doing studies and evaluations of at-risk populations. A few graduates will be accepted in federal law enforcement agencies after earning the Master's degree. The M.S. degree in forensic psychology will also allow some students to advance to doctoral programs in forensic psychology, forensic science, and law school.

The M.A. Forensic Psychology program is the first to be offered online by a nationally recognized, fully accredited university. Through the 34-credit M.A. program, students will learn how to provide the psychological expertise and knowledge needed by the legal community and agencies having a strong forensic focus. Students in the program will likely be in-service professionals, such as law enforcement personnel, who want to further their career, as well as those with a behavioral or social science background, such as counselors or social workers, who are interested in applying psychology to their work involving forensic issues.

Admission Requirements

1. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a behavioral or social science major allied with psychology, e.g., psychology, criminal justice, sociology, counseling, and social work.
2. M.A. applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above, or a graduate graduating GPA of at least 3.50. M.S. applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.2 or above or a graduating GPA 3.5.
3. M.S. applicants must also submit GRE scores, with Analytic GRE writing test score >2.5; and Verbal and Quantitative GRE scores must both equal or exceed the 30th percentile. The Psychology subject GRE test is also required. Applicants not meeting these standards may be admitted on a provisional basis with continued enrollment contingent on successful performance in the program.
4. A 250-300 word essay discussing reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in forensic psychology and research interests.
5. Three letters of recommendation from those who can comment on the applicant's academic abilities are also required.
6. A minimum TOEFL Score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test, or for the Internet based TOEFL, a composite score of 79, with minimum scores of 21/30 (Speaking*); 19/30 (Listening); 19/30 (Reading); and 17/30 (Writing) for applicants whose native language is not English. Applicants may also meet language requirements by presenting IETLS scores of 6.5. *Applicants being considered for Graduate Teaching Assistantships must achieve these minimum TOEFL scores, but have a minimum score of 26/30 on the Speaking subtest.
7. Students who have received a bachelor's degree or higher from the United States or English-speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL. Applicants may also meet language requirements by presenting IETLS scores of 6.5.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Science or Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the Graduate School as well as particular requirements set forth by the Forensic Psychology Department. Consult the Academic Catalog for complete course requirements.

Last Updated 08/14/09

Faculty and Areas of Interest

James Antes, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate Program, transformative approach to mediation; social conflict and conflict resolution.

April Bradley*, Ph.D., child forensics and sexual assault; child interviewing techniques in forensic interviews; child custody decisions.

Adam Derenne, Ph.D., basic behavioral processes.

Richard F. Ferraro, Ph.D., Director of Experimental Program, cognitive aging; gerontology; Alzheimer's disease; cognitive neuropsychology; inhibitory processes in cognitive performance.

Mark Grabe, Ph.D., assessment and development of cognitive and metacognitive skills involved in reading and study behavior; instructional technology.

Michael Hilme, Ph.D., cognitive-behavioral treatment of Tourette syndrome, trichotillomania; behavioral safety.

Jeffrey Holm, Ph.D., primary prevention of tobacco use and obesity; assessment and treatment of headache, dysmenorrhea and other psychophysiological disorders.

Alan King, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Training, alcohol research; interpersonal perception; personality development; and adult psychopathology.

Doug McDonald, Ph.D., INPSYDE Director, Native American assessment and treatment issues.

Joseph Miller, Ph.D., general test development and issues pertinent to assessment; development of tests for use with persons who are blind or visually impaired; development of clinical interventions specific to issues surrounding recent loss of abilities, especially visual impairment.

Jennifer Muelenkamp, Ph.D., Suicide and self-injurious behaviors in adolescents & young adults; depression and body image; suicide scale development; eating disorders; dialectical behavior therapy; training in suicide assessment and treatment.

Douglas Peters*, Ph.D., Director of the Forensic Psychology Master's Program, the child witness; eyewitness memory and stress; jury decision-making; expert witnesses; detecting deception; focus groups and trial consulting.

Thomas Petros, Ph.D., assessment of learning problems; reading processes and learning disabilities

Joelle Ruthig, Ph.D., Social and health psychology; achievement-related social cognition and motivation; health & aging

Cheryl Terrance*, Ph.D., social psychology; gender issues; sexual harassment; perceptions of victims within the courtroom.

Jeffrey Weatherly, Ph.D., Department of Psychology Chair, contrast and induction effects; variables that influence gambling behavior.

Richard Wise*, Ph.D., J.D., judicial and attorney knowledge of eyewitness memory; jurors' comprehension of expert testimony; educating judges and attorneys; forensic assessment.

**Forensic core-program faculty*

Contact Information

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Distance Degree Programs

E-mail: distancedegreeprograms@mail.und.edu
Web page: www.conted.und.edu/ddp/maf

Apply ONLINE:
<http://graduateschool.und.edu>

This graduate program is also available online. In-state tuition is available for all distance programs regardless of your residency status. For complete details about online and distance programs at UND, including curriculum, how distance programs work, and technical requirements, please visit: www.distance.und.edu.

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