

# The Graduate Program in Law and Forensic Psychology

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## **The Graduate Program in Law and Forensic Psychology**

The Graduate Program in Law and Forensic Psychology at Simon Fraser University offers experimental or clinical students unique research and applied experiences in the growing field of law and psychology. Students in both the Experimental Psychology and Law and Clinical-Forensic streams enter the graduate training program in the psychology department through the normal procedures for the experimental and clinical training programs respectively. In addition to the basic department requirements, students will enhance their experimental or clinical training by completing the requirements of the Clinical-Forensic or the Experimental Psychology and Law concentration, respectively. Students will be able to tailor the resources available through their respective concentrations to suit their intellectual and practical needs on an individual basis.

Although related in scope, course work and other requirements, the foci of the Experimental Psychology and Law and Clinical-Forensic streams, are quite different. Students in the Experimental Psychology and Law Stream will develop research and applied policy skills in law and psychology. In contrast, the Clinical-Forensic stream prepares those in clinical psychology with research and clinical skills unique to the forensic arena. As a result of the overlap of the two areas, students in both streams will take many of the same courses and will develop similar research skills; however, students in the Clinical-Forensic Stream will further develop their clinical training to include forensic training and practice experience.

### **Experimental Psychology and Law Stream**

#### **Admission**

Students interested in Experimental Psychology and Law Stream must apply for admission to the Experimental Psychology graduate program. The Experimental Psychology and Law Stream is based on a traditional experimental psychology graduate training model. As such, a large part of

training in Experimental Psychology and Law will be comprised of course work and research. Because of the applied nature of law and psychology, students in this stream will be encouraged to conduct applied research and to complete practicum training. There are several agencies in the greater Vancouver area that may be of particular interest to students (e.g., the Family Court Center, the British Columbia Forensic Commission, the British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence).

The requirements of the Experimental Psychology and Law Stream will not replace the degree requirements for experimental psychology. However, students in this stream may use law and psychology courses to fulfill some of their degree requirements. The purpose of the Experimental Psychology and Law Stream will be to train researchers in law and psychology. In addition, students will receive training in applied psychology and public policy.

## **Requirements**

### ***Courses***

Proseminar in Law and Psychology (PSYC 790, offered annually)

Mental Health Law and Policy (PSYC 815)

Seminar in Social Psychology and Law (PSYC 810)

Seminar in Law and Psychology (two are required, PSYC 990)

### ***Research Component***

Research Project in Law and Psychology/Clinical-Forensic (PSYC 897)

### ***Practicum Component***

Research/Policy Practicum in Law and Psychology (PSYC 892). This requirement can be met in either a 4-month block placement, or the equivalent (e.g., two days per week for nine months).

## **Recommended Program Sequence**

In addition to the regular sequence of courses for the Experimental Graduate Program,<sup>1</sup> students will complete the Experimental Psychology and Law stream requirements in the following general order. Because all of the courses are not offered every year, students will need to be somewhat flexible in the order in which they complete some of the courses.

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<sup>1</sup> For the Experimental Graduate Program requirements, see the SFU calendar or the psychology department's graduate brochure.

**First Year of Graduate Training**

Fall            Proseminar in Law and Psychology (PSYC 790)  
(*offered annually*)

**Second Year of Graduate Training**

Fall            Seminar in Social Psychology and Law (PSYC 810)  
(*offered biannually*)  
or  
Seminar in Law and Psychology (PSYC 990; two are  
required, *offered annually*)

Spring        Mental Health Law and Policy (PSYC 815), *offered  
biannually*

**Third Year of Graduate Training**

Fall            PSYC 810 (if not yet completed) or PSYC 990

Spring        PSYC 815 (if not yet completed)

Summer      Research/Policy Practicum in Law and Psychology  
(PSYC 892)

**Fourth Year of Graduate Training**

Fall            PSYC 810 or PSYC 990

Students are encouraged to complete their M.A. and Ph.D. theses in the area of law and psychology, and they also may wish to complete courses in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University as well as the Faculty of Law or Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia (by special permission).

Given the growing interest in law and psychology, the career choices available to graduates appear to have great potential. Graduates of similar programs in the United States have been quite successful in finding employment in a number of unique settings suitable to their training and interests (e.g., positions in government agencies conducting research and policy analysis, academic careers, private industry).

## **Clinical-Forensic Psychology Doctoral Training Stream**

### **Admission**

Admission to the Clinical-Forensic stream, and courses offered in the program, is restricted to students registered in the Clinical Psychology Program. Students will normally begin taking courses in the Clinical-Forensic stream after they have completed their second year of training in the clinical program. Incoming students with interests in clinical-forensic psychology should make their interests known on their application to the clinical program.

Like our Clinical Psychology Program, the Clinical-Forensic stream is based on the scientist-practitioner model and includes the components of research, course work, and practicum training. Since the Clinical-Forensic stream requirements are in addition to, and not in place of, those in the Clinical Psychology Program, students in the Clinical-Forensic Psychology Stream may expect to take an additional year to complete their doctoral training.

### **Requirements**

#### ***Required Courses***

- Proseminar in Law and Psychology (PSYC 790)
- Special Topics in Civil Forensic Psychology (PSYC 835)
- Special Topics in Criminal Forensic Psychology (PSYC 836)
- Mental Health Law and Policy (PSYC 815)

#### ***Research Component***

- Research Project in Forensic Psychology (PSYC 897)

#### ***Practicum Component***

- Practicum in Forensic Psychology (PSYC 890).

This requirement can be met in either a 4 month block placement, or the equivalent (e.g., two days per week for nine months).

## Recommended Program Sequence

In addition to the regular sequence of courses for the Clinical Graduate Program,<sup>2</sup> students will complete the requirements for the Clinical-Forensic Stream in the following general order. Because the courses may not be offered annually, students will need to be somewhat flexible in the order in which they complete some of the courses.

### ***First Year of Doctoral Training***

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Fall   | Proseminar in Law & Psychology (PSYC 790)<br>(offered annually)  |
| Spring | Mental Health Law and Policy (PSYC 815) or<br>Special Topics in Civil Forensic Psychology (PSYC 835)<br>(offered biannually) |

### ***Second Year of Doctoral Training***

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Fall   | Research Project in Forensic Psychology (PSYC 897)<br>Special Topics in Criminal Forensic Psychology (PSYC 836) (offered biannually) |
| Spring | PSYC 815 or 835  |
| Summer | Practicum in Forensic Psychology (PSYC 890)  |

### ***Third Year of Doctoral Training***

- |      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| Fall | PSYC 836 (if not yet completed) |
|------|---------------------------------|

In addition to the above requirements, students are encouraged to complete their theses in the area of law and psychology. Graduates may find employment in traditional forensic area conducting forensic evaluations (e.g., fitness to stand trial, custody evaluations) or developing and implementing intervention programs in the criminal justice system. In addition, graduates may wish to obtain academic or research/policy positions.

<sup>2</sup> For the Clinical Training Program requirements, please see the SFU calendar or the psychology department graduate brochure.

## Faculty

J. Don Read, Ph.D.	Professor
Deborah Connolly, LL.B., Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Kevin Douglas, LL.B., Ph.D.	Associate Professor and Area Coordinator, Law and Forensic Psychology
Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D.	Professor
Ronald Roesch, Ph.D.	Professor and Director, Mental Health, Law & Policy Institute
Jodi Viljoen, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor

In addition to the above faculty members, other faculty members have ancillary interests in law and psychology and clinical-forensic psychology. Associate faculty are:

Kim Bartholomew, Ph.D.	Professor
Marlene Moretti, Ph.D.	Professor
V. Gordon Rose, Ph.D., LL.B., LL.M.	Lecturer

### **For further information about the Graduate Program in Law and Forensic Psychology, please contact:**

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