

# Forensic Mental Health

Master of Arts



Concordia  
UNIVERSITY SAINT PAUL

## Local Learning for Global Success

ACCREDITED BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED 1893

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### FMH500 Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits\*

This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the forensic mental health field, explore in detail why some people with mental health-related problems engage in criminal related behaviors. Students can expect to learn about evidence-based interventions, psychopathology, and commonly used assessment tools, and acquire knowledge about key practices, policies, and terminology in forensic mental health. Students will learn about various factors, limitations, and considerations facing individuals leaving the prison system and re-entering the community.

#### FMH510 Family Violence, PTSD, and Trauma - 3 credits\*

This course will provide an in-depth look at the relationship between family violence, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, and trauma, as they relate to the family system. Students will understand the dynamics of family violence and homicide, the impact of witnessing violence and trauma on other family members, including children, and prevention and intervention strategies.

#### FMH520 Research Methods in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits\*

This course will provide students with the skills to critically evaluate research on issues related to forensic mental health. Students will learn how to apply empirical research to inform their decision-making in professional practice. Students will gain an understanding of the dynamics of problem solving and focusing on the development of creative and efficient solutions.

#### FMH530 Ethical and Legal Considerations in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits\*

This course is consistent with the University mission and focuses on the ethical and legal considerations that forensic professionals encounter in their daily job duties. Students will learn about ethical guidelines for forensic practice, as they relate to an ethical decision-making framework. This course will explore legal issues such as Confidentiality, Mandated Reporting, Consent and Release of Information, Duty to Warn, Domestic Violence, Orders for Protection, and Harassment, and will examine the role of the mental health professional as a witness in court cases. Students can also expect to learn about ethical and legal dilemmas commonly encountered in forensic practice.

#### FMH540 Forensic Mental Health Psychopathology - 3 credits\*

This course will examine the most common mental health conditions observed in a forensic mental health-based population. Focus will be placed on disorders that often co-exist with acts of aggression, rage and impulsivity, substance use, traumatic brain injuries, and pre-natal substance exposure. Assessment criteria, screening practices, and treatment interventions will be discussed.

#### FMH550 Special Populations in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits

This course will explore underserved and disadvantaged individuals who are involved in the criminal justice and legal system. Other topics of discussion will include vulnerable adults and severely neglected children, individuals who are homeless, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome, and victims of crime.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Master of Arts in Human Services with an emphasis in Forensic Mental Health program will provide the following outcomes:

1. Students will learn evidence-based practices as well as therapeutic strategies that have been deemed successful with treating and improving the lives of those within the criminal justice and legal systems.
2. Students will discuss the rationale behind why individuals commit crimes and the impact it has on victims and families.
3. Students will be exposed to the factors, limitations, and considerations facing individuals involved in the law enforcement, probation, and corrections systems.
4. Students will learn about forensic risk assessment tools, testifying in court, and ethical and legal practices that professionals need to follow when working within the forensic mental health system.
5. Additional courses include cultural, theoretical, ethical, practical, and research considerations.

### THE CONCORDIA ADVANTAGE

- **Flexible** – Online program option available
- **Accelerated** – Complete your program in 24 months or less
- **Manageable** – Attend an online discussion just one night a week (always on the same night and time)
- **Affordable** – Competitively priced programs and convenient payment options
- **Collaborative** – Experience cohort-based learning with a small group of talented professionals who learn together for the duration of your program

### FMH560 Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders - 3 credits

This course will provide students with an overview of the most commonly abused substances in forensic mental health populations, how to identify commonly abused drugs, recognize patterns and warning signs associated with drug use, and identify evidence-based intervention and treatment approaches. The impact drug use has on brain development, behavior and violence, and on the family system will also be explored. Students will learn about therapeutic drug courts and diversionary programs for substance-abusing populations, the impacts of DWI and drug courts (both juvenile and adult) and assessment criteria, screening practices, and treatment interventions.

### FMH570 Sexual Offending - 3 credits

This course will provide students with a better understanding regarding why some individuals engage in inappropriate sexual behaviors. Students will learn about the various types of sex offenders, risk factors and statistics associated with sex offending, sex offender-specific policies, and sex offender treatment options. Students will learn about different types of instruments used to assess for sexually inappropriate behaviors and diagnostic criteria associated with these behaviors. Students will learn about sex offender-specific risk assessment tools designed for use with adult and juvenile populations, as well as their strengths and limitations. Students will learn how sex offenders often use religious or spiritual themes in the victimization of women and children to justify their own conduct.

### FMH580 Forensic Risk Assessment - 3 credits

This course will provide extensive training to students on forensic mental health assessment for adults and adolescents, covering topics including risk-needs assessment tools commonly used by forensic mental health professionals to assess for risk of violence, danger, and harm to self and others, as well as determining what criminogenic needs should be addressed. Students will learn about a variety of other forensic assessment tools to evaluate issues such as competency to proceed, legal insanity, and response style/malingering.

### FMH585 Cultural Aspects of Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits

This course will enable forensic professionals to develop a deeper understanding of varying cultures and learn ways of being more effective and impactful in the work they do with clients from different ethnic groups. This course will explore what corrections, law enforcement, legal, and related forensics-based professionals need to know about culture. This course will also offer students' knowledge about prison gangs, white supremacy groups, and cultural aspects of gang involvement.

### FMH590 Forensic Mental Health Law - 3 credits

This course will examine the relationship between mental illness and the legal system, discussing the various professional roles involved in the forensic mental health law arena. Issues involving competency to precede, expert witness testimony, courtroom testimony protocols, the insanity defense, stages of a criminal case, and exploration of therapeutic courts (i.e., drug, DUI, and mental health) in the United States will be explored. Students can expect to learn about differences between county, state, and federal courts, key legal terminology associated with them, and legal issues involving individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities who commit illegal acts. This course will also outline case preparation and courtroom testimony for professionals.

### FMH595 Conducting Research and Completing Capstone - 3 credits

This course is the culminating final project in this program of study. Students are required to complete a paper on a topic of study in forensic mental health. The objective of this requirement is to demonstrate mastery of the content reflected in the final research paper.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

For admission consideration, a student must submit:

1. Graduate application
2. Application fee: \$50
3. Official transcript from all previous institutions attended
4. Personal statement
5. Resume

## TO APPLY

Applications are available at [www.csp.edu/apply](http://www.csp.edu/apply) or by contacting the Office of Admission.



Concordia partnered with the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS) in the development of this

master's degree program. The program targets professionals who have an interest in the field of forensic mental health and related care systems. The partnership enhances curriculum and professional training by using a comprehensive educational approach that focuses on forensic disciplines and current criminal justice issues. The first five courses outlined herein are offered as Post-Graduate Certificate in Forensic Mental Health program format.

AIAFS training attendees may be eligible for a program discount.

*Course descriptions, fees and other information included in this form are subject to change. Please refer to the Academic Catalog on our website for more information on program requirements.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**888-859-0641 • [onlineinfo@csp.edu](mailto:onlineinfo@csp.edu) • [online.csp.edu](http://online.csp.edu)**