

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a white keyboard is partially visible. To its left is a small black pot with green grass. Below the keyboard, a black paperclip lies on the desk. In the lower right, there is a black notebook with a white page, a black pen, and a white coffee cup with dark liquid. The background is a dark wood grain. The text 'Corrections/Forensic Psychology' is centered in a white, italicized serif font, with a short green horizontal line underneath it. There are also some green decorative dots in the bottom right corner.

# *Corrections/Forensic Psychology*

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# *What is Correctional Psychology?*

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- In the most basic sense, Correctional Psychology focuses on the intervention of criminal or juvenile offenders. They use psychological techniques to ensure the well-being and fair treatment of this population. More information can be found using the links provided below:

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/03/careers-corrections>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3oa7swjQgg&ab\\_channel=CriminalJusticePrograms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3oa7swjQgg&ab_channel=CriminalJusticePrograms)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW38oP4Ryeg&ab\\_channel=QueenslandCorrectiveServices](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW38oP4Ryeg&ab_channel=QueenslandCorrectiveServices)

# *What is Forensic Psychology?*

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- On the other hand, Forensic Psychology focuses on the process of law before incarceration. Psychologists use their knowledge, assessments, and more to ensure that the law is being upheld and the correct decisions are being made in the courtroom. More information can be found using the links provided below:

<https://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/forensic>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3-p1QnHrVk&ab\\_channel=PortlandCommunityCollege](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3-p1QnHrVk&ab_channel=PortlandCommunityCollege)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMPIvOUvqPA&ab\\_channel=TheBritishPsychologicalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMPIvOUvqPA&ab_channel=TheBritishPsychologicalSociety)

# *Potential Career Paths in Corrections/Forensic Psychology:*

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- Forensic Psychologist.
  - This path requires receiving either an M.A., Ph.D., or Psy.D.
- Clinical Psychologist.
  - This path requires receiving either an M.A., Ph.D., or Psy.D.
- Corrections or Parole Officer.
- Residential Youth Counselor.
- Crime Analyst.

# *Undergraduate Recommended Courses in Psychology:*

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- Social Psychology (**PSY 302**).
- Personality (**PSY 360**).
- Psychology of Aggression (**PSY 391\***).
- Abnormal Psychology (**PSY 408**).
- Cognitive Psychology (**PSY 415**).
- Cross Cultural Psychology (**PSY 426**).

\* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses, as there are more than just PSY 201! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions 😊

# *Undergraduate Recommended Courses Outside of Psychology:*

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- Introduction to Cyber and Forensics Security (**CFS 200**).
  - Digital Evidence (**CFS 440\***).
  - Introduction to Criminal Justice (**CJ 200**).
  - Introduction to Law Enforcement (**CJ 211**).
  - Introduction to Corrections (**CJ 231**).
  - Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Crime (**CJ 406\***).
  - Introduction to Forensic Science (**FSC 224**).
  - Drug Wars (**HST 305**).
  - Introductory Sociology (**SOC 200**).
  - Introduction to Social Work (**SWK 203**).
  - Substance Use and Social Work (**SWK 260**).
- \* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions ☺

# *Recommended Minors and Certificates:*

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- Criminal Justice Minor is HIGHLY recommended!
- Addiction Studies Minor.
- Computer Forensics Minor.
- Social Work Minor.
- Sociology Minor.

# *Accelerated Masters Students Recommended Courses:*

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- Abnormal Psychology (**PSY 508** instead of PSY 408).
- Psychology of Learning (**PSY 516** instead of PSY 416).
- Physiological Psychology (**PSY 540** instead of PSY 440).
- Advanced Social Psychology (**PSY 606** instead of PSY 302).



# *Is Graduate Training Required?*

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- Graduate training is not necessarily required for this subdiscipline, but it is necessary for some career paths. Make sure to do your own research!
- If you decide to pursue post-secondary education, the International Association for the Correctional and Forensic Psychology accepts graduate student members. The link to apply is listed below:

<https://www.myiacfp.org/become-a-member/>

# *Ways to Stand Out in Corrections/Forensic Psychology:*

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- Clinical Experience:
  - Targeted experience working with incarcerated individuals is challenging given the strict guidelines surrounding involvement with prisons, but it is possible to volunteer at a prison and gain some insight into the corrections environment.
- Volunteer Work:
  - If you are a Criminal Justice minor, consider joining the Marshall University Criminal Justice Association! The link to apply is: <https://herdlink.marshall.edu/organization/lae>
  - Volunteering at a prison could be a beneficiary experience and unique opportunity! This could also help you stand out against other applicants, whether it be for graduate school or a career. Simply use the links to call and ask!
    - <https://volunteer.reentry.gov/Volunteer/s/opportunity-search>
    - <https://prisonroster.com/blog/volunteer-prison-guide/>
- Research:
  - Not a lot is happening in this area of research at Marshall, but Dr. Koontz has interests in research with this population. Reach out and see how you can get involved!