Psychology (Forensic Psychology), BA

The psychology program at ASU's West campus offers a concentration in forensic psychology, focusing on how psychology is applied to the law. You can be trained in criminal law, criminal behavior, mental disorders and legal decision-making to prepare you to be an expert witness in a court of law.

Program Description

Forensic psychology is the application of psychology to the law. The concentration in forensic psychology within the BA program in psychology combines general training in psychology with specialized coursework in criminal law, criminal behavior, the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, and legal decision-making.

When courts are faced with cases in which a psychology-related question arises, they may turn to psychologists and ask for help with the case. For example, psychologists might assist the court in understanding a criminal's mental state at the time of a crime or whether a particular jury might have been biased against a defendant based on his or her race. This is the realm of forensic psychology.

This program teaches students about the various roles for psychologists in the legal system and helps them discover which roles they might like to pursue through careers in mental health, criminal justice or through graduate training.

The BS degree differs from the Bachelor of Arts in that it requires two additional lab science courses.

This major is eligible for the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program at the following location:
West campus. Students from Western states who select this major and campus may be eligible for reduced nonresident tuition at a rate of 150 percent of Arizona resident tuition plus all applicable fees. See more information and eligibility requirements on the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West campus **WUE** or online
- **Additional Program Fee:** No
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 119 - Finite Mathematics
- **Math Intensity:** Moderate

Required Courses (Major Map)

2019 - 2020 Major Map (On-campus)
2019 - 2020 Major Map (Online)
Major Map (Archives)

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors. Students should refer to https://students.asu.edu/changingmajors for information about how to change a major to this program.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.
Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping you thrive by offering tools that allow you to personalize your transfer path to ASU. Students may use the Transfer Map search to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools, and resources and help students save time and money in their college journey. Learn more about these programs by visiting the Admissions site.

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st-century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/

Global Degree

Career Opportunities

The Bachelor of Arts program in psychology with a concentration in forensic psychology prepares students for careers in the criminal justice and mental health fields. Many careers in psychology require graduate training, and this program is also designed to prepare students for master's degree and doctoral programs in legal, clinical and forensic psychology.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health Specialist</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>$61,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate (%)</td>
<td>Median Annual Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Psychologist</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$75,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$75,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Investigator</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>$79,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>$119,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Counselor</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation Officer</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>$51,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatrist</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>$44,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Social Worker</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>$43,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌞 Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

**Contact Information**

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N100
sbsadvising@asu.edu | 602-543-3000