Psychiatry

Forensic psychiatrists in Washington apply medical and clinical skills, and use specialized knowledge gained from experience in forensic mental health settings. They may conduct assessments, provide treatment, and evaluation of patients with behavioral health conditions. Psychiatrists working in this field typically have knowledge of the criminal court system and issues which exist where behavioral health and the law intersect.

About DSHS

The Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration provides information about careers in forensic behavioral health which play an important role in improving the lives of people with behavioral health conditions involved in the criminal court system. For more information about positions open within DSHS, please visit www.careers.wa.gov.

Forensic Behavioral Health

Forensic behavioral health is the intersection of behavioral health and the law. The system itself involves various entities that have a touchpoint to people who are involved with the criminal court system and may have a behavioral health condition.

Choosing a career as a practitioner in this human services field offers many diverse work environments. Examples include working with law enforcement in co-responder roles or in a corrections setting; in inpatient settings such as state psychiatric facilities and behavioral health and treatment centers; and in community settings such as outpatient competency restoration programs, or community behavioral health agencies. Service providers in this field often interact with legal partners such as lawyers and judges, corrections officers, and first responders.

For more information

Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration, OFMHS
www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/office-forensic-mental-health-services

Workforce Development Administrator
Leah Henley | Leah.henley1@dshs.wa.gov
https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/office-forensic-mental-health-services/workforce-development

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Forensic Behavioral Health Career Path

Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration
Office of Forensic Mental Health Services

DSHS
WASHINGTON STATE
Department of Social and Health Services

Examples of Work Environments

Psychiatrists in Washington typically work in inpatient settings in behavioral health and treatment centers or state psychiatric facilities, in a treatment role. A psychiatrist may also choose to work in an outpatient setting or as a forensic evaluator.

Education

To become a licensed psychiatrist in Washington state, a medical or osteopathy degree and licensure is required. See the Washington State Medical Commission for more information on licensing requirements.

This document is for illustrative purposes only. For detailed information see: 246-919 WAC, 246-843 WAC, WA Osteopathic Medical Association, WA Medical Commission

Begin

Bachelor's that covers medical school prerequisites

Pass the Medical College Admission Test

Complete Medical or Osteopathic school for MD or DO degree

Complete 4 years of residency experience in general psychiatry

MD Degree

DO Degree

Pass the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination

Pass the Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination

Optional Board Certification

Psychiatrist

New Opportunities

Schools in Washington

Medical Schools

University of Washington
Washington State University

Osteopathy Schools

Pacific Northwest University

Psychiatric Residency Programs

University of Washington
Sacred Heart Medical Center of Spokane

Source- Spokane Teaching Health Center, Psychiatric Residency Training Program