

AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

In a Memorandum dated 11/1/02, The American Board of Forensic Psychology changed its certification procedures to allow candidates who completed a formal post-doctoral training program in forensic psychology to "waive" the five year experience requirement. The American Board of Forensic Psychology offers the following as guidelines for the purpose of designating Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Forensic Psychology that qualify for "waiver" in the determination of eligibility. These guidelines will be replaced when standards for the accreditation of Post-doctoral Fellowships in Forensic Psychology are formally adopted and implemented by the APA.

In order for a candidate's request for waiver to be approved by the American Board of Forensic Psychology, the candidate must provide documentation that the post-doctoral training program he or she attended meets the following requirements.

Guidelines for Approval of Waiver:

Admissions Criteria

Candidates must have completed all of their doctoral degree requirements before they started post-doctoral training. If they had not received a diploma at the start of post-doctoral training, a letter from their Director of Clinical Training (or similar official) must verify that all degree requirements were met by the time they started training at the their post-doctoral program. Programs that will qualify for waiver will offer proof that candidates completed an APA internship (or equivalent) prior to starting post-doctoral training.

Structure and Curriculum

The post-doctoral training program must have an identifiable Director of Training. The Director must have any one of the following three qualifications: (a) an ABPP (with forensic specialization), (b) at least five years experience in forensic psychological practice, or (c) formal certification/sanctioning by the State in which he or she resided to conduct forensic psychological practice. This certification must be authorized by State statute or regulations.

Post-doctoral fellows (or equivalent title) must have been identified as such in all formal communications with and on behalf of the program. They are paid by stipend and considered trainees by the Fellowship. The program must offer a diploma or certificate upon completion of the post-doctoral training, clearly delineating the year[s] the fellow participated in the training program. Candidates must send a copy of the diploma to the credential reviewer for ABFP.

To qualify for waiver, the candidate's program must have a structured written curriculum with clearly defined training goals and objectives. This will include information on how these goals and objects are met by the post-doctoral training program. Programs must provide a didactic course or regular series of seminars, as well as clinical experiences in forensic practice. In addition, they must include a formal didactic course in case law, ethics, and socio-cultural/ethnic factors that affect persons with mental illness and other impairments in the context of forensic assessment and treatment. Candidates for waiver will provide a copy of the curriculum of the post-doctoral program he/she attended to the credential reviewer for ABFP.

Candidates must complete 2000 hours of training in no less than 9 months and no more than 24 months (two years half-time). On site supervision is required and candidates must have received a minimum of 2.0 hours of face-to-face supervision per week. Supervision must be provided by a licensed or State sanctioned/credentialled psychologist. Twenty-five percent of the Fellow's time must be spent administering direct provision of professional forensic psychological services (e.g., assessment, treatment, consultation). Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the credential reviewer for ABFP.

The program must have a formal written evaluation process that outlines the Fellow's progress during the post-doctoral year. These evaluations should list the strengths and limitations of the fellow's skills as a forensic psychologist.

If these criteria are adequately met, the candidate will be granted a "waiver."