



# PSYCHOLOGY

## Forensic Psychology Certificate

Forensic Psychology refers broadly to the research and application of psychological knowledge to the justice system, including the empirical and theoretical knowledge of behaviour and decision-making of suspects, offenders, judges, lawyers, police, victims, jurors, and others involved in the justice system.

Current students may obtain a Certificate in Forensic Psychology along with their Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degrees. Please note that no more than 12 credit hours of courses required for the psychology major can be used to fulfil requirements for the certificate. Psychology students interested in this certificate may wish to take additional PSYC courses as degree electives to fulfil the credit hour requirement.

Alumni may also enrol in the Certificate program following the completion of their degree; a minimum of 12 credit hours is required to fulfil requirements for this certificate.

If you're interested in this certificate, please contact your Arts or Science student advisor for advice on selecting courses.

### Topics Include:

- Police psychology
- Eyewitness memory
- Juror decision-making
- Crime victims
- Offender behaviour
- Criminal responsibility
- Forensic risk and competency assessments.





## Saint Mary's University

Founded in 1802, Saint Mary's University is a world-class institution with a long tradition of academic excellence in teaching and research. Our campus is home to more than 7,000 students from over 115 countries and is recognized as having one of the most internationally diverse student populations in Canada. Saint Mary's is located near downtown Halifax, the bustling economic and cultural centre of the province of Nova Scotia, on the east coast of Canada.

### Program Requirements

Earn the Certificate in Forensic Psychology by completing 24 credit hours as indicated below with a mean GPA of at least 3.0.

Please note that some core courses have prerequisites that are not part of the Certificate; this may extend the duration of study for students entering the Certificate without a background in Psychology.

#### Admission Prerequisites:

Introduction to Psychology PSYC 1000  
Research Methods in Psychology PSYC 2010  
Psychological Statistics — PSYC 2020

Please view the Psychology Courses page within the Undergraduate Academic Calendar for course prerequisites. It is important to keep this in mind when planning your academic career.

#### Certificate Required courses:

PSYC 3710 Psychology and Law  
PSYC 3720 Forensic Psychology

#### Select at least nine (9) credit hours from the core courses:

PSYC 4710 Advanced Psychology and Law  
PSYC 4720 Advanced Forensic Psychology  
PSYC 4730 Offenders and Victims  
PSYC 4740 Sexual Offending  
PSYC 4750 Psychology of Crime Victims

#### Select 9 credit hours of electives from the courses below:

PSYC 2610 Psychopathology: History and Theories  
PSYC 3130 Drugs and Behaviour  
PSYC 3610 Psychopathology: Specific Disorders  
PSYC 4760 Contemporary Issues in Forensic Psychology

#### Alternative Courses

Other courses may also be used to satisfy Certificate requirements (if they are directly related to forensic psychology and with permission from the Department Chair or Undergraduate Program Coordinator).

### A Certificate in Forensic Psychology is beneficial within the following fields:

#### Corrections

- Law enforcement
- Parole board
- Justice policy and research
- Victim services
- Legal services
- Administration of justice

#### Social services

- Public safety
- Child/youth protection

### Questions?



Visit [smu.ca/psychology](https://smu.ca/psychology) for [course requirements](#), [faculty & staff](#), and [info about applying](#).