



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

FUNDAMENTALS OF FORENSIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS

This course is designed to introduce neuropsychologists to forensic evaluation in both criminal and civil litigation. Participants will be familiarized with the United States legal system structure, and relevant case law and legal and practice considerations for forensic neuropsychological (FNP) engagement. Coursework will focus on key terms and processes in FNP evaluation, with emphasis on the differences between forensic and traditional clinical neuropsychology practice. Participants will learn essential elements of select criminal and civil forensic neuropsychological evaluations, and an overview of important components of forensic neuropsychological report writing and testimony. The aim of this course is for the neuropsychologist to understand their potential to uniquely contribute to the legal system and to be aware of the requisite foundational knowledge for moving forward in this specialty niche. Another objective is for the participant to gain not only empirical knowledge, but also to be able to apply this knowledge in real-world scenarios. Ethical as well as equity, diversity, and inclusivity considerations will be discussed throughout the course.

COURSE DIRECTOR

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Forensic & Clinical Neuropsychologist
Board Certified in Forensic Psychology
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Clinical Instructor, New York University Grossman School of Medicine
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REQUIRED TEXT

Melton, G. B., Petrila, J., Poythress, N. G., Slobogin, C., Otto, R. K., Mossman, D., & Condie, L. O. (2018). *Psychological evaluations for the courts: A handbook for mental health professionals and lawyers, 4th ed.* Guilford Press. (ISBN-13: 978-1462532667) (ISBN-10: 9781462532667)

Students should purchase the textbook from the vendor of their choice immediately after registration.

DURATION & CREDITS

This is an 8-week online learning experience that combines assigned textbook reading, online material, supplemental discussion questions based on the readings and online content, and student-instructor interactions via an online discussion board. The course is divided into 4

learning modules, each approximately 2 weeks in duration. Students who successfully complete all course requirements receive 16 CE credits for psychologists.

The National Academy of Neuropsychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The National Academy of Neuropsychology maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Instructional Level: Beginner

COURSE FEES

NAN Members: \$295

Non-Members: \$495

WORKLOAD The DistanCE program expects that a MINIMUM workload of 2 to 3 hours of work per week is necessary to keep up with the course. For some who have had less exposure to clinical neuropsychology in a forensic setting, more time may need to be devoted to keeping up with the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the learner will:

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge regarding the United States legal system as well as case laws relevant to FNP.
2. Explain key terms and specific practice issues relevant to FNP.
3. Identify common neuropsychological conditions that are present in forensic settings, and how these conditions are pertinent in addressing FNP referral questions.
4. Discuss relevant legal standards, procedural issues, and FNP evaluation considerations related to Competence to Stand Trial, Mental State at the Time of the Offense, Risk Assessment and Sentencing, Civil Capacities, and Personal Injury referrals.
5. Translate knowledge of performance and symptom validity testing in neuropsychology to forensic practice.
6. Apply empirical knowledge to practical FNP scenarios, such as report writing and Testimony.
7. Summarize ethical considerations regarding the application of neuropsychology in the forensic setting.
8. Discuss relevant equity, diversity, and inclusivity factors in FNP practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To pass course requirements and earn continuing education credits or certificates of completion students must:

- complete all multiple-choice posttest examinations, earning a cumulative percentage >74% correct and
- write a response to at least three (3) of the online Discussion Questions selected from any of the four modules and post these responses to the online course discussion forum.

The DistanCE online system automatically records performance on multiple-choice exams, which may be taken multiple times.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Course Review of Course Syllabus and Requirements Technology Issues/Getting on the DistanCE Website

Begin Module 1: Intro to FNP and the legal system

Textbook: Chapter 1- Law and Mental Health Professions: An Uneasy Alliance, Ch. 2- An Overview of the Legal System: Sources of Law, the Court System, and the Adjudicative Process, and Ch. 14- Juvenile Delinquency

Week 2: Complete Module 1: Methods and practice considerations

Textbook: Ch. 3- The Nature and Method of Forensic Assessment, Ch. 4- Constitutional, Common Law, and Ethical Contours of the Evaluations Process: The Mental Health Professional as Double Agent, and Ch. 5- Managing Public and Private Forensic Services

Complete Module 1 Quiz

Week 3: Begin Module 2: CST, MSO

Textbook: Ch. 6- Competence to Proceed, and Ch. 8- Mental State at the Time of the Offense

Week 4: Complete Module 2: Risk Assessment and Sentencing

Textbook: Ch. 9- Sentencing, and Ch. 10- Civil Commitment

Complete Module 2 Quiz

Week 5: Begin Module 3: Civil Capacities

Textbook: Ch. 11- Civil Competencies

Week 6: Complete Module 3: Personal Injury

Textbook: Ch. 12- Compensating Mental Injury: Workers' Compensation and Torts

Complete Module 3 Quiz

Week 7: Begin Module 4: FNP Report Writing and Expert Testimony

Textbook: Ch. 18- Consultation, Report Writing, and Expert Testimony, and Ch. 19- Sample Reports

Week 8: Complete Module 4: Expert Testimony (continued as needed) and Course Wrap-up

Textbook: Ch. 18- Consultation, Report Writing, and Expert Testimony, and Ch. 19- Sample Reports

Complete Module 4 Quiz Complete Course Evaluation