

## UCLA/ San Fernando Forensic Psychiatry Program Goals and Objectives

The philosophical orientation of the UCLA/San Fernando Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Training Program is that of a balance between biologic, dynamic, and behavioral conceptual viewpoints coupled with the acquisition of technical excellence and therapeutic skills. We expect our graduates to be competent in every major area of general and forensic psychiatric diagnostics and therapeutics, willing to assume appropriate responsibilities towards their patients, their medical colleagues, and the community at large, to be dedicated to continuing their medical education and growth throughout their careers, and to remain and imbued with the spirit and philosophy of medicine.

Clinical experiences include the forensic evaluation of a variety of subjects of both genders, including adolescent, adult, and geriatric age groups, who represent a broad range of mental disorders and circumstances, in both civil and criminal contexts. Consultation to general psychiatric services on issues related to the legal regulation of psychiatric practice include civil commitment, confidentiality, refusal of treatment, decision-making competence, guardianship and the treatment of persons involved in the criminal justice system.

We emphasize an integrated teaching model that stresses a balance of genetic, biological, and developmental, and psychosocial factors that determine normal and abnormal behavior. Fellows are educated to gather, organize and integrate data within a comprehensive formulation of the problem to support a well-reasoned differential diagnoses, formulate a treatment plan, and implement treatment and follow up care as required. Our program provides each fellow with maximal opportunities to develop knowledge, clinical skills, sensitivity to cultural diversity, and professional principles. We have adopted the ABMS-ACGME Forensic Psychiatry Specific Competencies into our rotational goals and objectives. By the completion of their fellowship they will be proficient in all of the Forensic Psychiatry Specific Competencies as stated by the ABMS-ACGME.

### **The UCLA/San Fernando Forensic Psychiatry Training Program**

#### **GENERAL STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM**

Goals:	Objectives:
1. Ability to conduct a comprehensive forensic interview and competency evaluation.	1. Interview of clients in jail, correctional facilities, hospital, in private office settings for forensic purpose.
2. Ability to evaluate the need of therapy in forensic settings	2. Assess treatment needs of patients in various forensic settings such as state hospital and county jails and prisons.
3. Ability to practice ethically and develop the ability to resolve complex ethical dilemmas.	3. Discuss and analyses of ethical dilemmas in formal lectures and with supervisors regarding specific forensic cases.

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| 4. Ability to accurately diagnose psychiatric disorders.   | 4. Diagnosis individuals who are being evaluated for psychiatric legal issues as well as treatment.  |
| 5. Ability to formulate a treatment plan and implement it.   | 5. Treat individuals in correctional settings, at the Twin Towers Jail and Prisons.  |
| 6. Ability to assess dangerousness, suicidal and homicidal potential or potential for forensic   | 6. Assess dangerousness to self or others in clients who are being evaluated for assaultive behavior. purposes. Didactic lectures.   |
| 7. Ability to use psychopharmacological of agents effectively.   | 7. Prescribe psychopharmacological treatment patients in Prison, Forensic unit in a State Hospital and the Jail.   |
| 8. Ability to maintain adequate records.   | 8. Completion of written reports on at least 47 forensic cases as well as record keeping of those in treatment. Records should include medical and psychiatric history, mental status, and progress notes for those in treatment.                  |
| 9. Ability to make appropriate use of laboratory tests, psychological testing and there diagnostic procedures.   | 9. Order appropriate psychological testing for diagnosis and treatment of disorders in a forensic setting.   |
| 10. Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a mental health team in information gathering, treatment planning and implementation of treatment in a | 10. Collaboratively interact with 1 health team interdisciplinary treatment group at at Metropolitan, Jail, Family court, Juvenile court, Olive View Medical Center and Mental Health court. Some didactic lectures by those in other disciplines. |

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES OF THE FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM  
continued**

**Goals:**

**Objectives:**

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| 11. Ability to give legal testimony regarding issues such as mental competency, sanity etc. | 11. Testify in mental health court and observe testimony of forensic faculty  |
| 12. Ability to write reports for court.   | 12. Write reports on cases interviewed or cases done by forensic faculty that were observed. Didactic lectures on report writing.                             |
| 13. Knowledge of landmark cases.  | 13. Demonstrate knowledge of Landmark cases.  |
| 14. Knowledge of major issues and trends in forensic psychiatry.                            | 14. Discuss major issues and trends in forensic Psychiatry.   |
| 15. Knowledge of the sources of the law, legal research, case law and legal standards.      | 15. Demonstrate knowledge of law. Read forensic journal and texts. Discussion of Forensic Papers in Supervision, Journal Club and didactic presentations.     |
| 16. Knowledge of legal issues effecting Psychiatric practice.                               | 16. Demonstrate Knowledge of legal issues effecting psychiatric practice. Lectures and discussions regarding these issues. Case discussions with supervisors. |
| 17. Knowledge of problems in regard to boundary issues.                                     | 17. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical issues as they arise during evaluation and treatment. Didactic lectures.   |
| 18. Knowledge of ethical foundation of forensic practice.                                   | 18. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics in forensic practice.   |
| 19. Ability to do forensic research   | 19. Complete research project with Mentor and Supervision.  |
| 20. Ability to use research techniques.   | 20. Write a scholarly research paper.   |
| 21. Testify competently in court.   | 21. Testify in court with supervision. Lectures   |

**OLIVE VIEW MEDICAL CENTER  
Sylmar, California**

Goals:

- Knowledge of civil commitment and ability to apply it
- Knowledge of confidentiality issues and their limitations
- Knowledge of right to refuse treatment
- Knowledge of conservatorship - LPS and Probate
- Knowledge of competency for informed consent
- Ability to testify in court

Objectives:

- Evaluation of inpatients for conservatorship, writs, probable cause hearing and Riese (right to refuse psychotropic medications) hearings..
- Testifying in mental health court on the above issues.
- Attend at least 80% of the didactic curriculum including topics in LPS civil commitment law.
- Individual Supervision with qualified Forensic Psychiatrists - minimum of 2 hour per week.

**Metropolitan State Hospital  
Norwalk, California**

Goals:

- Acquire the ability to perform a forensic psychiatric interview.
- Acquire the ability to independently write a focused and relevant forensic psychiatric reports.
- Acquire the ability to provide relevant and useful legal testimony.

- Acquire skill in the diagnoses of patients in a correctional setting. Consult with other mental health professionals in a multidisciplinary setting.
- Acquire the ability to evaluate competency to consent to medication and ability to testify.
- Acquire knowledge of the legal principles regarding treatment of Penal Code and Civil Commitment patients in a psychiatric hospital setting.

Objectives:

- Fellows will be observed and critiqued on performance of initial psychiatric patient interviews and forensic assessment. Fellows will be supervised on their forensic interviews.
- Write at least 15 forensic psychiatric reports that contain the appropriate and relevant data and reasoning. Receive feedback from supervisor on quality of the report. Attend the didactic lectures on forensic report writing.
- Perform evaluation and write reports on competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, mentally disordered offender and post acquittal release assessments. Receive feedback and critique from supervision on all reports.
- Testify on patients on psychiatric legal issues, attend lectures on expert testimony.
- Provide clinical diagnosis and treatment to at least two (2) Mentally Disordered Offenders, two (2) Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity Acquittes, and two (2) Not Competent To Stand Trial patients. Attend the appropriate team meetings with the fellow participating as team leader and consult with the other mental health professionals in a mental health multidisciplinary setting.
- Evaluate mentally disordered offenders who have filed a writ refusing medications. Testify if needed.
- Attend at least 80% of lecture, individual supervision in addition to assigned reading so as to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the state laws and legal issues of Penal Code patients at Metropolitan State Hospital.

**FAMILY COURT SERVICES**  
**Los Angeles, California**

Goals:

- Knowledge of child custody laws.
- Evaluation methodology to perform custody evaluation.
- Evaluation of adolescents for custody.

Objectives:

- Observation of evaluations done by experienced professionals in court and the homes of families with regards to custody disputes and visitation rights.
- Evaluate families with adolescents in their homes, with regards to custody disputes and visitation rights.
- Presentation of information to the court focused on developing a custody and visitation plan that is in the best interest of the adolescent. (or observation if children are under 14 years of age.)
- Attendance of a minimum of 80% lectures and participation at rotation site.
- Individual supervision provided by staff at Family Court Services.

**JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**  
**Los Angeles, California**

Goals:

- Knowledge of the structure and operation of juvenile court and major relevant statutes.

- Knowledge of the mental health needs of adolescents under juvenile court jurisdiction.
- Ability to perform evaluation on juvenile offenders to determine the severity of mental illness, aid the court in disposition and treatment decisions.

OBJECTIVES:

- Didactic discussion with Juvenile Court Mental Health Services.
- Consultation with attorneys.
- Psychiatric evaluation of adolescents to determine the severity of mental illness under juvenile court jurisdiction and preparation of written reports. Make recommendations to the court and disposition and treatment decision. Testify if indicated.

**TWIN TOWERS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
**Los Angeles, California**

Goals:

- Ability to evaluate patients in a correctional setting.
- Awareness of ethical problems in treating patients in jail.
- Knowledge of special issues in treating patients in a jail setting (i.e. chronic substance abuse, malingering, cultural and minority issues).
- Knowledge of mental health law as applicable to the treatment of mentally ill inmates at the jail (i.e. LPS, conservatorships, Riese, writs of habeas corpus).
- Develop knowledge and expertise required to treat criminally and severely mentally ill inmates.

Objectives:

- Evaluation of jail patients.
- Treatment of jail patients.
- Supervision of cases.
- Preparation of forensic evaluation and/or written treatment plan for each case.
- Treatment of criminally and severely mentally ill inmates.

**DEPARTMENT 95 MENTAL HEALTH COURT  
COMPETENCY EVALUATION CLINIC  
Los Angeles, California**

Goals:

- Acquire the ability to perform a forensic psychiatric interview.
- Acquire the ability to independently write a focused and relevant forensic psychiatric report regarding trial competence and other matters.
- Acquire the ability to provide relevant and useful legal testimony.

OBJECTIVES:

- The fellow will learn how to interview and evaluate criminal defendants about who trial competence has been declared in doubt.
- The fellow will learn how to write competency reports.
- The fellow will learn about the laws, regulations and other constraints that affect the court and evaluation process.

**SEPULVEDA VA MEDICAL CENTER  
North Hills, California**

Goals

- To acquire knowledge and expertise for Service Connected Disability in Veterans with Mental Disorders for the purpose of compensation, by learning the unique criteria that apply to Service connected disability evaluations.

Objectives

- Fellows will observe one complete evaluation process and thereafter will review medical records and conduct and interview of the patient with mental disability to determine whether he/she meets the criteria for service connected disability.
- Supervision, didactics and consultation will be provided on these evaluations.

**FORENSIC OUTPATIENT CLINIC SETTING WITH FACULTY**  
**Multi-Site**

Goals:

- Ability to evaluate cases with psychiatric legal issues.
- Ability to evaluate criminal and civil forensic cases.
- Ability to evaluate forensic issues such as testamentary capacity, personal injury, sexual harassment, malpractice, ethics complaints, insanity defense, diminished capacity, competency to stand trial, disabilities, etc.

Objectives:

- Review of forensic case material and videotapes.
- Observation of evaluations performed by faculty.
- Observe depositions or testimony.
- Perform - forensic evaluations under supervision or with a faculty member.
- Write forensic reports.