COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FMH500 Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits*
This course will provide a broad overview of the most common forensic assessment tools used by mental health professionals in the field today. It will teach students about how such tools are used to evaluate issues, including risk assessment, legal competency, legal insanity, malingering, and suggestibility. Students will be expected to learn about the various factors, limitations, and considerations facing individuals leaving the prison system and re-entering the community.

FMH510 Family Violence, PTSD, and Trauma - 3 credits*
This course provides an in-depth look at the relationship between family violence, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicide, substance abuse, and trauma, as these topics relate to the family structure and Armed Services Resiliency Programs, such as Yellow Ribbon and Deployment Cycle Support. This course will help students understand the dynamics of family violence and the impact that witnessing violence and trauma has on other family members, including children.

FMH520 Research Methods in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits*
This course provides students with the skills to critically evaluate research on issues related to forensic mental health. Students will learn how to apply empirical research to inform their decision-making in matters of forensic assessment and treatment planning.

FMH530 Ethical and Legal Considerations in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits*
This course is consistent with the University mission and focuses on the ethical and legal considerations that forensic professionals encounter in their daily job duties. Students will learn about ethical guidelines for forensic practice, as they relate to an ethical decision-making framework. This course will explore legal issues such as Confidentiality, Mandated Reporting, Consent and Release of Information, Duty to Warn, Domestic Violence, Orders for Protection, and Harassment.

FMH540 Forensic Mental Health Psychopathology - 3 credits *
This course examines the most common mental health conditions observed in a forensic mental health-based population, including those conditions common among homeless individuals with undiagnosed mental health issues. Students can expect to learn how substance use, co-occurring disorders, traumatic brain injuries, and pre-natal substance exposure can contribute to increased mental health symptoms.

FMH550 Special Populations in Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits
This course will explore underserved and disadvantaged individuals who are involved in the criminal justice and legal system. Other topics of discussion will include vulnerable adults and severely neglected children, guardianship, war veterans who are entering our criminal justice systems at an alarming rate, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Traumatic Brain Injuries, Wernicke Korsakoff Syndrome, and victims of crime. This course will also examine veteran, dependency, and juvenile justice court systems.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE
The Master of Arts in Human Services with an emphasis in Forensic Mental Health program will provide the following outcomes:

1. Students will learn evidence-based practices as well as therapeutic strategies that have been deemed successful with treating and improving the lives of those within the criminal justice and legal systems.
2. Students will discuss the rationale behind why individuals commit crimes and the impact it has on victims and families.
3. Students will be exposed to the factors, limitations, and considerations facing individuals involved in the law enforcement, probation, and corrections systems.
4. Students will learn about forensic risk assessment tools, testifying in court, and ethical and legal practices that professionals need to follow when working within the forensic mental health system.
5. Additional courses include cultural, theoretical, ethical, practical, and research considerations.

THE CONCORDIA ADVANTAGE
- Flexible – Online program option available
- Accelerated – Complete your program in 24 months or less
- Manageable – Attend an online discussion just one night a week (always on the same night and time)
- Affordable – Competitively priced programs and convenient payment options
- Collaborative – Experience cohort-based learning with a small group of talented professionals who learn together for the duration of your program

Responsive. Relevant. Real.
FMH560 Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders - 3 credits
This course provides students with an overview of the most commonly abused substances in forensic mental health populations. Students will learn how to identify commonly abused drugs, recognize patterns and warning signs associated with drug use, and identify evidence-based intervention and treatment approaches.

FMH570 Sexual Offending - 3 credits
This course will provide students with a better understanding regarding why some individuals engage in inappropriate sexual behaviors. Students will learn about the various types of sex offenders, risk factors and statistics associated with sex offending, sex offender-specific policies (i.e., registries, civil commitment of sexually violent predators), and sex offender treatment options. Students can also expect to learn about different types of instruments used to assess for sexually inappropriate behaviors and the diagnostic criteria associated with these behaviors. Students will also learn about sex offender-specific risk assessment tools designed for use with adult and juvenile populations, as well as their strengths and limitations.

FMH580 Forensic Risk Assessment - 3 credits
This course provides more extensive training to students on forensic mental health assessment for adults and adolescents. It will cover topics including risk-needs assessment tools that are commonly used by forensic mental health professionals to assess for risk of violence, danger, and harm to self and others, as well as determining what criminogenic needs should be addressed.

FMH585 Cultural Aspects of Forensic Mental Health - 3 credits
This course explores what corrections, law enforcement, legal, and related forensics-based professionals need to know about culture. Students can expect to understand the complex definition of culture and gain insight into how culture may impact one’s personal and professional choices and behaviors.

FMH590 Forensic Mental Health Law - 3 credits
This course examines the relationship between mental illness and the legal system. It will discuss the various professional roles involved in the forensic mental health law arena, issues involving competency to proceed, expert witness testimony, courtroom testimony protocols, and the insanity defense.

FMH595 Constructing Research and Completing the Capstone - 3 credits
This course is the final project in this program of study. Students are required to complete a 30 to 40 page paper on a scholarly topic relevant to the study of forensic mental health. The paper will demonstrate mastery of the identified topic by incorporating the knowledge obtained during degree progression and program degree outcomes. A final oral defense by telephone will be required of each student. The objective of this requirement is to demonstrate mastery of the content reflected in the final research paper.

*Students will obtain a Certificate in Forensic Mental Health after taking the first five courses of the Master of Arts Degree program.*

**APPLICATION PROCESS**
For admission consideration, a student must submit:
1. Graduate application
2. Official transcript from all previous institutions attended
3. Personal statement
4. Resume

**TO APPLY**
Applications are available at www.csp.edu/apply or by contacting the Office of Admission.

Concordia partnered with the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS) to offer this master's degree program. The program targets professionals who have an interest in the field of forensic mental health and related care systems. The partnership enhances curriculum and professional training by using a comprehensive educational approach that focuses on forensic disciplines and current criminal justice issues.

Course descriptions, fees and other information included in this form are subject to change. Please refer to the Academic Catalog on our website for more information on program requirements.