

Psychiatry

Forensic Psychiatrists in Washington apply medical and clinical skills, and use specialized knowledge gained from experience in forensic mental health settings. They may conduct assessments, provide treatment, and evaluation of patients with behavioral health conditions. Psychiatrists working in this field typically have knowledge of the criminal court system and issues which exist where behavioral health and the law intersect.

About DSHS

The Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health Administration (transforms lives by supporting sustainable recovery, independence and wellness. Within BHA, the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services), provides information about careers in forensic behavioral health which play an important role in improving the lives of individuals with behavioral health conditions involved in the criminal court system. For more information about positions open within DSHS, please visit www.careers.wa.gov.

Forensic Behavioral Health

Forensic behavioral health is the intersection of behavioral health and the law. The system itself involves various entities that have a touchpoint to people who are involved with the criminal court system and may have a behavioral health condition.

Choosing a career as a practitioner in this human services field offers many diverse work environments. Examples include, working with law enforcement in co-responder roles or in a corrections setting; in inpatient settings such as state psychiatric facilities and residential treatment facilities; and in community settings such as outpatient competency restoration programs, or community behavioral health agencies. Service providers in this field often interact with legal partners such as lawyers and judges, corrections officers, and first responders.

For more information

Behavioral Health Administration, OFMHS

www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/
office-forensic-mental-health-services

Workforce Development

Katie Cutshaw
katie.cutshaw@dshs.wa.gov 360-522-6061
www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/workforce-development

Psychiatry



Forensic Behavioral Health Career Path

Office of Forensic Mental Health Services

Pathway to Forensic Behavioral Health Psychiatry



Examples of Work Environments

Psychiatrists in Washington typically work in inpatient settings in residential treatment facilities or state psychiatric facilities, in a treatment role. A Psychiatrist may also choose to work in an outpatient setting or as a Forensic Evaluator.

Education

To become a licensed Psychiatrist in Washington State, a Medical or Osteopathy degree and licensure is required. See the Washington State Medical Commission for more information on licensing requirements.

This document is for illustrative purposes only. For detailed information see: 246-919 WAC, 246-843 WAC, WA Osteopathic Medical Association, WA Medical Commission

