



# ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

## St. John's University Postdoctoral Certificate Programs in Forensic Psychology

### Advanced Program in Criminal Law Modules (62 hours)

Course Code	Module Name
PDFP 910	<p>Criminal Competences (21 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Themes in Criminal Forensic Practice<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science and Skill in Clinical Forensic Practice</li><li>• Forensic Prediction and Classifications</li><li>• Scrutiny and Skepticism When Working with Criminal Attorneys</li><li>• The Independence of Law and Forensic Practice</li></ul></li><li>• Legal Standards and Historical Antecedents</li><li>• Different Competencies</li><li>• Procedural Issues<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competency Examination</li><li>• Adjudication of Competency</li></ul></li><li>• Miranda Issues and Beyond</li><li>• Proceed and Stand Trial</li><li>• Forensic Assessment Methods</li><li>• Quality of Competency Evaluations</li><li>• General Cross Examination Issues</li><li>• Malingering and Deception in Criminal Evaluations</li><li>• Nature of Experts and Their Testimony</li></ul>
PDFP 911	<p>Criminal Responsibility (14 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant Legal Standards</li><li>• Clinical Operationalization of Criminal Culpability Standards</li><li>• Sanity and Diminished Capacity</li><li>• Insanity Defense<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Characteristics of Incompetent Defendants</li></ul></li><li>• Clinical Methods Relevant to Assessments of Criminal Responsibility</li></ul>

<p>PDFP 912</p>	<p>Sentencing/Disposition (seven hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposition of Cases Involving Incompetent Defendants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defendants Currently Incompetent to Stand Trial</li> <li>• Application of <i>Jackson v. Indiana</i> Standard</li> <li>• Medication Issues</li> <li>• Defendants Permanently Incompetent to Stand Trial</li> <li>• Ethical Dilemma: Should Incompetency Necessarily Be Raised in a Misdemeanor or Lower-Level Felony Case?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sentencing/Disposition in Non-Capital Cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications of Federal Sentencing Guidelines</li> <li>• Significance of Mental Disability as a Reductive or Aggravating Factor</li> <li>• Impact of Changes in DSM V in Cases Involving Defendants with PTSD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sentencing/Disposition in Capital Cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation</li> <li>• Future Dangerousness</li> <li>• Defendants with Mental Illness</li> <li>• Defendants with Intellectual Disabilities</li> <li>• Medication to Make One Competent to Be Executed</li> <li>• Quality of Counsel Issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disposition in Cases Involving “Sexually Violent Predators”</li> <li>• Other Relevant Issues</li> </ul>
<p>PDFP 913</p>	<p>Risk Assessment and Management (14 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses of Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Nature of Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Legal Contours</li> <li>• Ethical Contours</li> <li>• Forensic Contours</li> <li>• Conducting a Risk Assessment: General Considerations</li> <li>• Making the Transition: Risk Assessment with Different Populations</li> <li>• Base Rates and Risk Factors for Violent Behavior</li> <li>• Risk Assessment Tools</li> <li>• Implications for Intervention and Decision-Making</li> <li>• Scientifically Supported, Unsupported, and Controversial Uses of Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Risk Communication</li> </ul>
<p>PDFP 914</p>	<p>Moot Court (six hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A simulation experience as expert witnesses of criminal cases, with the participation of attorneys and available judges</li> <li>• Candidates are strongly encouraged to select their cases early in the training and work closely with a supervisor</li> </ul>