



Teaching Faculty & Clinical/Forensic Psychologist

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Please describe the area of psychology you practice. For example, what does your day-to-day schedule look like?

I serve two roles. The first is as a teaching-focused faculty member. Through this role, I teach undergraduate and doctoral psychology courses. I love teaching at both of these levels as it allows me to work with psychology students across the training spectrum. I spend my days prepping lectures, grading, mentoring, and having truly wonderful and insightful conversations with students with varied experiences.



The second role is as a clinical and forensic psychologist. As I operate my own private practice, I am able to take on referrals that are conducive to my schedule. I primarily get referrals and conduct psycho-legal evaluations with justice-involved youth. I spend my time meeting with the youth, conducting assessments, collecting data, and a large percentage of the time writing reports for the court to utilize.

Were there specific factors that led you to choose this area of psychology? Was there a critical moment that changed your career trajectory?

I realized during undergraduate that I loved the environment of a college campus. I loved the wide variety of learning, research, and conversations that were happening in these spaces. I wanted to be in this space and also contribute to what makes

	academic institutions so special. During graduate school, I was able to teach undergraduate courses as an adjunct that helped me realize how much I not only enjoyed teaching but also mentoring others. It's truly wonderful to see a concept click for a student or to help mentor students who don't have much guidance navigating academic spaces. I was always interested in clinical psychology, but what brought me to specialize in forensic psychology was a combination of opportunities and interests. During undergraduate, I had an opportunity to volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). Through this opportunity, I learned about how much the legal system intersected with the field of psychology. From this opportunity, I knew that I wanted to help contribute to legal decisions through a psychology framework. During graduate school, I quickly realized that I enjoyed using assessment measures and conducting evaluations. I had an opportunity to conduct evaluations through the Detroit Juvenile Justice system to help inform the court on mental health related matters and it was just a perfect fit. From that point on, I prioritized conducting forensic evaluations with the juvenile justice system.
What advice would you give to an ECP who wants to pursue a position or additional training opportunities in this area of psychology?	Reject careerism and invest in holistic growth. Find out what you like by trying different things! Do not rush! It's okay to take a new and very different opportunity that doesn't have a direct line to advance your career. It allows you space to learn about yourself and to see if other opportunities are appealing to you. Be open to all types of opportunities and not just the ones that directly advance your career.



Contact Us: earlycareer@apa.org

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