Basic Standards for Fellowship Training in
Forensic Psychiatry

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
And the
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists & Psychiatrists (ACONP)
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ARTICLE I – INTRODUCTION
These are the Basic Standards for Fellowship Training in Forensic Psychiatry as established by the American College of Osteopathic Neurology and Psychiatry (ACONP) and approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). These standards are designed to provide the osteopathic fellow with advanced and concentrated training in forensic psychiatry and to prepare the fellow for examination for certification in Forensic Psychiatry by the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry (AOBNP).

ARTICLE II – MISSION
The mission of the osteopathic forensic psychiatry fellowship training program is to provide fellows with comprehensive structured cognitive and clinical education that will enable them to become competent osteopathic forensic psychiatrists with the highest academic, clinical, ethical and professional standards of medicine. The primary mission of the program shall be excellence in patient care, education and research.

ARTICLE III – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS
A. Medical Knowledge and Skills
The program shall provide training that will allow the fellow to develop skills to allow the fellow to demonstrate and apply knowledge of accepted standards of clinical medicine in psychiatry, remain current with new developments in medicine, and participate in life-long learning activities, including research.

B. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
The program shall provide training that will allow the fellow to develop skills to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills establishing and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of the health care teams.

C. Patient Care
The program shall provide training that will allow the fellows to develop skills to demonstrate the ability to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health conditions, to incorporate the osteopathic philosophy and osteopathic manipulative treatment in all settings as appropriate; as well as to apply preventative medicine and promotion of health.

D. Osteopathic Philosophy and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
There shall be emphasis on the utilization of osteopathic principles and practices as a key component of the Fellowship Program in Forensic Psychiatry residency training and integrated throughout the program. Training shall incorporate the application of osteopathic diagnostic and therapeutic measures as they relate to the total care of the patient. Therefore the fellows will be required to demonstrate competence and knowledge in the essential osteopathic principles.

E. Professionalism
The program shall provide training that will allow the fellows to develop skills that promote advocacy of the patient welfare, adherence to ethical principles upholding the Osteopathic Oath, collaboration with health professionals, life-long learning, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

F. System Based Practice

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The program shall provide training that will allow the fellows to demonstrate an understanding of health care delivery systems, provide quality patient care within the system, and practice cost effective medicine.

G. Practice Based Learning and Improvement

The program shall provide training that will allow the fellows to demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate their methods of clinical practice, organize and record data, such as history, mental status examination, diagnostic techniques and procedures, and laboratory tests in the initiation of therapy, integrate evidence-based medicine into patient care, show and understanding of research methods, and improve patient care practices.

ARTICLE IV - INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A. The base institution must:
   1. Have a core residency program in general psychiatry that is accredited by the AOA.
   2. Maintain a medical library on-site with a number of current basic textbooks in psychiatry, neurology, medicine and law. There must be a broad range of current peer-reviewed journals in psychiatry, neurology, medicine and law.

B. Essentials of the program must be conducted at the base institution and through participating facilities based on written affiliation agreements, and must include experiences in the following areas:
   1. Facilities in which forensic psychiatric evaluations on subjects with a broad variety of psychiatric disorders which must include court clinics, inpatient forensic units, outpatient forensic clinics, and private practices
   2. Facilities that provide general psychiatric services available to patients with a broad variety of psychiatric disorders, where fellows can learn consultation regarding legal issues in psychiatric practice which must include inpatient and outpatient facilities or may be specialized facilities that provide psychiatric care to correctional populations
   3. Facilities that treat persons in the correctional system, where residents can learn about the specialized treatment issues raised by these populations and settings which must include prisons, jails, hospital-based correctional units, halfway facilities, rehabilitation programs, community probation programs, forensic-clinics, juvenile detention facilities, and maximum security forensic hospital facilities.

ARTICLE V – PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT

A. The fellowship training program in forensic psychiatry shall be twelve (12) months in length.

B. Training in forensic psychiatry that occurs during the general residency training will not be credited toward the one year requirement

C. The program must offer advanced training that affords opportunities for the fellow to develop the knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment essential to the practice of forensic psychiatry

D. The program must ensure that resources such as laboratory space and equipment, computer and statistical consultation services are available

E. Clinical experience must include experience in the following areas:
   1. Forensic evaluation of a variety of subjects of both genders including adolescent, adult,
and geriatric age groups representing a broad range of mental disorders and circumstances in both civil and criminal contexts.

2. Consultation to general psychiatric services on issues related to the legal regulation of psychiatric practice, such as civil commitment, confidentiality, refusal of treatment, decision-making competence, guardianship, etc.

3. Treatment of persons involved in the criminal justice system.

F. Clinical case conferences and seminars dealing with topics such as law, ethics, basic and social sciences, and research must be conducted regularly and as scheduled.

G. Training must focus on the social and legal context for forensic work, both civil and criminal.

H. Instruction encompasses socio-cultural, ethnic, economic, and ethical considerations that affect mentally ill persons who come in contact with the legal system.

I. Didactic Curriculum must include:

1. Psychiatric Curriculum
   a. History of forensic psychiatry
   b. Roles and responsibilities of forensic psychiatrists
   c. Assessment of competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, amnesia, testamentary capacity, and civil competency
   d. issues involved in the assessment of dangerousness
   e. assessment of the accused sexual offender
   f. evaluation and treatment of incarcerated individuals
   g. ethical, administrative and legal issues in forensic psychiatry
   h. legal regulation of psychiatric practice
   i. writing forensic reports
   j. eyewitness testimony

2. Law Curriculum covering issues in forensic psychiatry such as:
   a. fundamentals of law, statutes, and administrative regulations
   b. the structure of federal and state court systems
   c. the use of a law library or on-line legal reference services
   d. theory and practice of sentencing of the convicted offender
   e. basic civil procedures
   f. basic criminal procedures
   g. jurisdiction
   h. responsibility
   i. tort law
   j. children’s rights
k. family law
l. confessions
m. structure and function of juvenile systems
n. structure and function of correctional systems

3. Civil Law Curriculum including issues such as:
   a. conservators and guardianships
   b. child custody determinations
   c. parental competence and termination of parental rights
   d. child abuse/neglect
   e. psychiatric disability determinations
   f. testamentary capacity
   g. psychiatric malpractice
   h. personal injury litigation
   i. developmental disability law
      1) individualized educational needs
      2) the right to the least restrictive environment for education

4. Criminal Law Curriculum that includes issues such as:
   a. Competence to stand trial
   b. Competence to enter a plea
   c. Testimonial capacity
   d. Voluntariness of confessions
   e. Insanity defense
   f. Diminished capacity
   g. Evaluations in aid of sentencing
   h. Safe release of persons acquitted by reason of insanity
   i. Competence to be executed

J. Forensic experience must include:
   1. Evaluation of individuals involving:
      a. Criminal behavior
      b. Criminal responsibility and competency to stand trial
      c. Sexual misconduct
      d. Dangerousness
      e. Civil law and regulation of psychiatry issues
2. Review of written records including clinical and legal documents and in preparation of written reports and/or testimony in a diversity of cases such as:
   a. Aiding the court in sentencing of criminal offenders
   b. Domestic relations cases
   c. Personal injury cases
   d. Allegations of sexual abuse
   e. Cases involving ethical issues and legal regulation such as
      1) Involuntary hospitalization
      2) Confidentiality
      3) Right to treatment
      4) Right to refuse treatment
      5) Informed consent
      6) Professional liability
3. Fellows must have supervised experience testifying in court or in mock trial simulations
4. Fellows must have supervised training in the relevance of legal documents such as:
   a. Police reports
   b. Court testimony
   c. Polygraphs
   d. Hypnosis
   e. Brain-imaging techniques
   f. Narcoanalysis
   g. Psychological and neuropsychological testing
5. There must be consultative experiences to provide residents with the opportunity to interact with clinicians regarding legal issues that arise in psychiatric practice
6. Fellows must have experience with evaluation and management of acutely and chronically ill patients in correctional systems such as prisons, jails, community programs, and secure forensic facilities.

   ARTICLE VI – PROGRAM DIRECTOR/FACULTY

A. Program director qualifications:
   1. Must be certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry with Certification of Added Qualifications with recognized competence in forensic psychiatry or equivalent credentials satisfactory to the ACONP and AOA.
   2. The program director must have a Certificate of Added Qualifications in forensic psychiatry for a minimum of two (2) years.
   3. The program director must have protected time allocated to the administration of the training program.
B. Program director responsibilities include:
   1. The program director's authority in directing the fellowship training program must be defined in the program documents of the institution.
   2. The program director shall be required to submit quarterly program reports on the subspecialty fellow to the director of medical education. An annual report shall be submitted to the ACONP.
   3. The program director shall ensure that osteopathic theory and practice and its application to forensic psychiatry are emphasized.

C. Faculty Requirements
   1. There must be at least one certified child and adolescent psychiatrist on staff
   2. In addition to faculty psychiatrists, faculty must include a lawyer and a forensic psychologist
   1. Faculty must be responsible for establishing and maintaining an environment of investigation and scholarship as well as an active research component must be included in each forensic psychiatry fellowship training program.
   2. At each participating site, there must be an adequate number of fellow supervisors which are committed to educate, evaluate and supervise progressively all trainees during outside assignments. A member of the teaching faculty staff of each participating site must be designated to be responsible of the daily educational activities, with overall monitoring of the program director.

ARTICLE VII - FELLOW REQUIREMENTS
A. Applicants for training in forensic psychiatry must have satisfactorily completed an AOA-approved residency in psychiatry.

B. During the training program the subspecialty fellow must:
   1. Maintain a satisfactory record of assigned patients for whom he/she has primary responsibility. Copies of these records shall be filed monthly with the program director and shall be available for inspection. The resident will maintain medical records as defined by the program director.
   2. Submit an annual report to the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists.
   3. Write one (1) professional research project pertinent to forensic psychiatry which is suitable for publication.
   4. Participate in professional staff activities involving patients care and evaluation and actively collaborate with the generalist and specialists of other disciplines

ARTICLE VIII - EVALUATION
A. Faculty Evaluation
   1. Faculty teaching evaluations must be completed anonymously by each resident at least once during the training program. Copies of evaluations must be provided to the specialty college.
2. Evidence must be provided demonstrating teaching changes as needed based on review of evaluations.

B. Facility Evaluation

The Institutional Demographics and statistical report form must be completed for new program applications and with each inspection.