

**Course: Terrell State Hospital Forensic Psychiatry Selective  
Course Number PSY 1902**

Department: Forensic Program (Psychiatry)

Hospital: Terrell State Hospital

Faculty Coordinators: Mitchell Dunn MD; Deepti Vats, MD; Susana Lampley, MD

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Periods Offered: All

Length: 4 weeks

Max # of Students: 2

First Day Contact: Brittany Byram

First Contact Time: 8:00 am

First Day Location: Main Administration Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor; Brittany Byram

Prerequisites: General Psychiatry Clerkship

**I. Course Description**

This is a selective rotation that provides the student with the opportunity to work closely with forensic patients and forensic medical staff at Terrell State Hospital. Often, the Forensic Fellow and UTSW residents are also part of the treatment and evaluation team. The student will share responsibilities with attendings in assessing forensic patients' treatment needs, competency to stand trial and appropriateness for discharge (in Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity patients). Structured didactics will cover a variety of topics, both criminal and civil. The student may have an opportunity to attend insanity release committee meetings at the hospital and insanity release hearings in court. The student may also have the opportunity to attend evaluations at jails as well as trials and depositions that are part of the faculty's private practices.

**II. Goals**

**Patient Care:** Assessment and Management

1. Students will demonstrate the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to perform appropriately focused and accurate histories of forensic psychiatry inpatients and document the findings accurately in the health record.
2. Students will assist in development of evaluation and treatment plans.
3. Students will develop assessment skills related to competency to stand trial evaluations

**Objectives:**

- Interview patients who have been determined to be incompetent to stand trial
- Interview patients who have been determined to be Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity (NGRI)
- Attend treatment team meetings
- Perform ongoing assessments of competency to stand trial

**Assessment methods**

- Quality of Medical Records entries
- Skills evaluation from direct observation
- Quality of forensic assessments prepared for court

**Medical knowledge:**

1. The Student will be able to formulate and present forensic psychiatric cases.
2. The student will know how to assess the basic aspects of competency to stand trial evaluations.
3. The student will know how to perform a basic assessment of malingering.
4. The student will know the basic process of release of an NGRI patient from the hospital.

**Assessment methods**

- Ongoing assessment of patients who have been determined to be incompetent to stand trial
- Didactic learning about landmark cases in forensic psychiatry
- The student will be provided with basic education regarding malingering assessment tools
- 10 to 20 minute oral presentations
- Discussion and participation in treatment team meetings

**Interpersonal and communication skills:**

The students will effectively exchange information with patients, families, consultants and the team, including nurses, faculty, residents and ancillary staff.

- Communicating effectively with an interdisciplinary treatment team
- Observations of faculty and staff

**Practice Based learning and Improvement:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to assimilate scientific evidence and improve patient care practices.

- 10 to 20 minute oral presentations
- Critical review of a relevant article with oral presentation
- Original research on a topic generated from the article review with oral presentation

**Professionalism:**

Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population

- Observations of faculty and staff

**Systems based practice:**

1. Know how the provision of forensic psychiatric services fits into the larger system of health care.
2. Work with the team and patients to optimize use of system resources

- Observations of faculty and staff

**III. Methods of Instruction**

- A. Didactic
- B. Clinical
- C. Observational/Experiential if court hearings are attended

**IV. Overview of student responsibilities**

The student will be assigned to provide care to a number of patients on the forensic unit of Terrell State Hospital. Under the direct supervision of professional staff, the student will also perform evaluations of the restoration of competency to stand trial. The student will document findings in the electronic medical record. The student will be included in treatment team meetings and may work with the attending physician and social worker in attaining ancillary information from family and the court system. The student will educate others regarding a recently published forensic psychiatry article and will conduct further research and present information on a topic of interest.

**V. Method of evaluation of students and requirements**

Evaluation based on assessment methods listed above:

Honors – conscientious completion of all assignments; interview skills and note-writing skills equivalent to beginning intern level; able to incorporate suggestions and critique to improve the above skills; able to develop understanding of competency concepts; capacity to think critically (at intern level) and make suggestions for change in treatment; well-organized journal review and research presentations.

High Pass - conscientious completion of all assignments; comfortable during interview process and capable at note-writing, possible need for further development before beginning internship; may struggle with some competency concepts; developing ability to think critically regarding treatment plans; clear evidence of effort in journal review and research presentations.

Pass – performs basic patient care duties; limited interest in improving patient interview and note-writing skills; limited interest in treatment planning or in understanding the competency to stand trial process; limited investment in the journal review and research presentations.

Fail – failure to perform basic patient care duties; may have numerous non-excused absences; little to no interest shown in improving patient interview or note-writing skills; unprepared to provide journal review or independent research presentations; clearly not ready to have independence in providing patient care.