

Class Concept

Work in this class involves participation as an active member of the mental health treatment team with considerable responsibility for a supportive counseling workload and for the implementation of treatment plans for particular inmates. Employees provide initial screening interviews that focus on data gathering and identification of problem areas that will require attention by the treatment team. Employees are also involved in administering, scoring, and supervising psychological tests to inmates in a diagnostic/mental health setting. Duties also include administering and scoring more advanced test batteries such as Halstead Reitan, 16 PF, and Elizur Test for Organicity. Employees function as liaison with diagnostic and treatment staff and may serve on various committees relative to treatment.

Recruitment Standards

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Thorough knowledge of psychological principles and psychometric theory is required to properly administer and score individual and group psychological tests.
- Thorough knowledge of the causes of criminal behavior and the stresses inmates are subject to during incarceration is required.
- Thorough knowledge of crisis intervention and other supportive counseling techniques.
- Thorough knowledge of psychiatric diagnostic categories and the various behaviors associated with each is essential to recognize those inmates that require more intensive intervention.
- Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form.
- Ability to organize and prepare accurate records, charts, and reports and to analyze such information.
- Ability to make psychological and social assessments to develop the basics for a treatment plan and to provide counseling.
- Ability to gain the confidence of inmates and to work effectively with them, and to maintain effective working relationships with health and correctional staff.

Minimum Education and Experience

Bachelor's degree in psychology or other human services field from an appropriately accredited institution with several classes in psychology, and one year of experience in some area of behavioral health; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Note

Candidates being considered for a position in Diagnostics require at least two years of experience administering and/or conducting psychological testing.