

**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 25, 2013**

Item: Post-Audit Review Follow-up Report for the CAS/AAS
Forensic Psychology and Investigation

Recommended Resolution: *RESOLVED*, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors receive and approve the post-audit review follow-up report for the CAS/AAS Forensic Psychology and Investigation as requested by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Staff Member: Cindy McCoy

Background:

During the 2011-2012 academic year a post-audit review of the Forensic Psychology and Investigation Program was conducted by the Department of Social Sciences in accordance with the provisions of Series 37 of the Council for Community and Technical College Education rules. At its April 13, 2012 meeting, the Board of Governors approved continuation of the Forensic Psychology and Investigation Program with corrective action and submitted the post-audit review report to the Council for Community and Technical College Education for review and approval.

At its August 16, 2012 meeting, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education accepted the post-audit report for the Forensic Psychology and Investigation Program and requested a follow-up report. A recommendation regarding the continuation of the CAS/AAS program in Forensic Psychology and Investigation was deferred pending receipt of a follow-up report on necessity. It was noted that an effective assessment had not been developed and an advisory committee had not been implemented. The West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education also requested a plan be submitted for enhancing program viability and development if program need is established.

Included in this report is the information requested by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

**POST-AUDIT FOLLOW-UP REPORT
2012 – 2013
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Program without Specialized Accreditation**

Program: CAS/AAS-Forensic Psychology and Investigation

The 2012 post-audit review of the Forensic Psychology and Investigation program resulted in a continuation with corrective action. The West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education requested a follow-up report addressing specific assessment measures and the development of an advisory council for the program. The Council also requested that a plan be submitted for enhancing program viability and development.

The specific assessment measures are in place within the program curriculum. They are centered on the program goals developed to incorporate the General Education Philosophy and Goals embraced by Southern W. V. Community and Technical College and the theoretical principles and practical methodologies developed by the program advisory council.

Critical Thinking/Cognitive Goal: Students will demonstrate their ability to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate and create a higher level of thinking to fill the demands of a *very* challenging occupation.

Communication Goal: Students *must* demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate oral, written, and nonverbal proficiency required in a complex and competitive workforce.

Scientific Inquiry and Technology: Students will demonstrate their scientific inquiry and reasoning skills by using the latest technologies available in the program.

Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will demonstrate an awareness of cultural and global issues required in a demanding occupation.

The **Forensic Psychology and Investigation Programs** will also adopt the **NOCTI - Legal Services Exam for Technical Assessment** in the fall 2013.

Advisory Committee

In the fall of 2013 the Acting Department Chair of the Social Science Department asked the faculty to submit names for the Forensics Psychology and Investigation Program Advisory Committee. From the list of names submitted by the faculty, the department assembled an advisory committee that met for first time in the spring of 2013.

The 2013-2014 Forensic Psychology and Investigation Advisory Committee Members

Angie Aguirre – Logan County Probation Employee
Sabrina Deskins – Logan County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Stephen Baisden – Williamson DHHR Hearing Officer
Sharon Bevins – Operates Futures in Logan
Lillian Kay Browning – Retired Logan Probation Officer
Robin Browning – Williamson DHHR Employee

Brady Keyser – Adjunct Instructor
Judge Eric O'Briant – Logan County Judge
Judge Roger Perry – Logan County Judge
Ted Riffe – Wyoming County Correctional Officer
Kim Tipton – Logan County Probation Employee
Joshua Butcher – Attorney
Jeff Lane – Logan County Magistrate

During the 2013 spring advisory meeting the newly formed advisory committee believed it could help Southern identify ways to enhance the viability of the program and increase new student interest. It is also believed that the development of brokering articulations with area colleges and universities will enhance the attractiveness of the program to the non-traditional student. The committee has made the recommendation that Southern highlight the Forensic Psychology and Investigation program on Southern's TV station and web page and local newspapers and TV stations. The acting chair, Dr. McCoy, anticipates working with area vocational schools on course articulation for students who are interested in a profession in law enforcement.

The Forensic Psychology and Investigations AAS/CAS Program Necessity

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth in *Forensic Psychology* for psychologists and mental health professionals is expected to grow by almost 22% between 2010 and 2020. This is faster than the average for all other professions.

The demand for more mental health professionals is seen primarily in clinical psychology and in applied specialties such as forensic psychology. An increase in demand for psychologists has been noted in private practice, hospitals and other mental healthcare settings.

The American Psychological Association recognized forensic psychology as a specialty in 2001, calling it "Division 41." Since that time, universities and law schools have been developing courses, minors and degree programs that lead to careers in forensic psychology. These programs allow students to learn about both psychology and the legal system, preparing them for top forensic psychology jobs.

According to Payscale.com, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) employs more forensic psychologists than any other employer, followed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. It is important to note, however, that most jobs with a forensic psychology degree requirement are in consulting and do not have a single employer. There is also a trend for large police departments, forensic laboratories and law firms to employ their own in-house forensic psychologist.

Financially, forensic psychologists can make a good living. The salary for forensic psychology jobs vary based on education and what type of positions are held within the industry. Salaries in the industry range from a low of \$35,293 to a high of \$118,975, according to Payscale.com.

Employment Trends and Career Areas for Forensic Psychologists in West Virginia

The job market is going to look great for forensic psychologists in the upcoming years. The need for these specialists is going to increase by about 15% nationwide by 2016.

Those who go into a forensic psychology career will be able to find many different career paths to follow. They can work with law enforcement, or work with the court system, the corrections system, and more.

Within the service area for Southern WV Community and Technical College there are seven state police bureaus (Logan, Gilbert, Danville, Hamlin, Madison, Beckley and Welch), six correctional centers (Logan, Huntington, Beckley, Charleston, McDowell and Mt. Olive) and over thirty local police agencies. Graduates in *forensic psychology* have the potential for employment in any of these communities. It should be noted that the higher the education level the greater the potential for obtaining a high paying position in *forensic psychology*. Southern WV Community and Technical College program is transferable into the programs at West Virginia State University, Marshall University and Bluefield State University; Increasing the options for the students to advance their education and occupations in *forensic psychology*.