

HPC's Standards for Psychologists

Standard 1: You must act in the interest of service users (your clients)

Standard 2: You must respect the confidentiality of service users (your clients)

Standard 3: You must keep high standards of personal conduct

Standard 4: You must provide any important information about your conduct and competence

Standard 5: You must keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date

Standard 6: You must act within the limits of your knowledge, skills and experience and, if necessary, refer the matter to another practitioner

Standard 7: You must communicate properly and effectively with service users (clients) and other practitioners

Standard 8: You must effectively supervise tasks that you have asked other people to carry out

Standard 9: You must obtain informed consent in order to provide treatment (except in an emergency)

Standard 10: You must keep accurate records

Standard 11: You must deal fairly and safely with the risks of infection

Standard 12: You must limit your work or stop practising if your performance or judgement is affected by your physical and mental health

Standard 13: You must behave with honesty and integrity and make sure that your behaviour does not damage the public's confidence in you or your profession

Standard 14: You must make sure that any advertising you do is accurate

Training to become a forensic psychologist: Hints and tips

STAGE I

- Join the Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) and learn about the Division.
- Get a copy of the Diploma candidate handbook and start reading through it as soon as possible.
- Use this opportunity to gain the core theoretical knowledge that will assist you in the future career, and take this opportunity to learn about the theories of offending and treatment, considering how you will apply this knowledge in practice. Do not fall into the trap of simply doing enough to pass Stage I.
- For your dissertation, choose a topic that is both interesting *and* relevant to your future. For example, try to research a population that you hope to work with (young people, victims, the prison environment). This may help when you apply for Stage II jobs.

STAGE II

- Be creative in spotting opportunities for evidence for the core roles. No job will be tailored simply to evidencing the four core roles. You will need to think about the needs of the organisation and how you may demonstrate your competency as a qualified psychologist in this task.
- *Never* let your practice diary lapse! This is your best source of evidence of your competency. If completed correctly, it will save you time when compiling your evidence. You will miss learning opportunities if it is not updated regularly.
- You are required to spend a minimum of 110 days on each core role (to ensure breadth of experience and knowledge). Keep a running log of the number of days for the four core roles.
- Join the trainee forum with the DFP and learn from others.
- Always remember to reflect on the BPS Code of Conduct and Ethics. Refer to this in your practice diary and supervision log.
- Start writing up your evidence for the core roles early – this will help you to see gaps that may exist and enable you to address these before it is too late!
- Don't try to rush. The two-year supervised practice guideline is just that, a guideline. It is more important to gain appropriate experience to be a competent psychologist.
- Remember that qualified status is not a right and the number of days spent on supervised practice does not equate to competency – you have to work hard and demonstrate applied knowledge!
- As with any qualification, you will need to be prepared to do some work in your own time.
- Remember to remain positive throughout, using feedback from your supervisors and peers as learning opportunities.