

Oklahoma Department of Corrections
Unclassified Job Descriptor

PSYCHOLOGIST

Basic Purpose:

Under general direction, performs professional work in the psychological diagnosis and/or treatment of patients in a state correctional facility.

Typical Functions:

- Identifies and monitors the mental health status of seriously mentally ill inmates.
- Provides group and individual counseling or psychotherapy with inmates; provides crisis and suicide intervention.
- Evaluates mental health service delivery needs and makes recommendations for needed changes to include needs assessment of assigned cases.
- Selects and administers a variety of psychological tests, including intelligence, personality, aptitude, and related tests; and interprets test findings to physicians, nurses, offenders, and other appropriate staff.
- Provides special evaluation, counseling, and therapy to a selected inmate population, e.g., mental retardation, sex offender, substance abuser.
- Attends conferences with psychiatrists, social workers, and other staff members for diagnosis and treatment of patients.
- Prepares reports on findings, and interviews, including diagnostic opinions for use by the medical staff.
- Supervises and assists in developing training programs for the recognition and handling of problems involving psychological, social, or personality adjustments; conducts in-service training programs for staff members and other professionals in the prevention, recognition, and management of psychological problems in mental, emotional, and social development and adjustment; trains designated correctional staff to administer departmental approved psycho-educational programs (e.g. Rational Behavior Training (RBT) and Interpersonal Communication Skills (IPCS), etc.)
- Participates in psychological research projects to evaluate objectives, methods, and results of mental health interventions.

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- Participates as a representative of the agency in both lay and professional conferences and meetings.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of psychological theory; of methods of psychological counseling, psychotherapeutic methods, case assessment methods, individual and group counseling and testing; of projective techniques, statistical methods, and research design; of community problems; and of special education of individuals with mental, emotional, and social problems and mental retardation. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships; to direct the work of others; to serve as a consultant and/or function in an administrative capacity; to work with community groups and agencies in developing programs and services; to exercise good judgement in analyzing situations and making decisions; and to prepare special funding grants.

Education and Experience:

Statutorily Required: N/A

Minimum Qualifications: Completion of the curriculum requirements for a doctorate in psychology (Ph.D., Ed.D., or Psy.D.) from an accredited college or university with a specialty in clinical or counseling psychology or related area. This program shall include one (1) calendar year of full-time or two (2) years part-time pre-doctoral internship in a clinical setting. One (1) year of post-doctoral clinical experience may be substituted if the work is supervised by a licensed psychologist. Course work should include training in psychological testing in both projective and objective techniques.