

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

Credit: Selective C or Elective

Location: LAC+USC Medical Center

Revised: 7/1/07

Applications will be accepted beginning April 1st of Year III on a first-come, first-served basis

DIRECTOR:

Timothy Botello, MD, MPH
& Bruce Gross, PhD, MD

PHONE #:

323-226-4942

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

1. Discuss the differences between a forensic psychiatric interview and a general psychiatric interview.
2. Discuss civil commitment hearings, Riese hearings (hearings of involuntary psychiatric patients concerning their discharge or mental capacity to make treatment decisions concerning their mental illness).

COORDINATOR:

David Kurtz
E-mail: dlk@usc.edu

PHONE #

323-226-5572

REPORT TO: Interns and Residents Dorm 714
at 10 a.m.

PREREQUISITE: Psychiatry Clerkship **

SUPERVISION:

60% Faculty

40% Forensic Fellows

DURATION: 4, 6, or 8 weeks

DATES OFFERED: All Year (except July–September)

Rotations scheduled: to begin any Monday

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1

VISITING STUDENTS: No

DESCRIPTION:

The clerkship is intended for medical students who are interested in psychiatry and the law. Faculty and fellows of USC Institute of Psychiatry and Law will supervise students. Patients that will be seen are psychiatric patients who are involuntarily hospitalized and go to court to seek their discharge, go to court to continue to refuse psychiatric medications, or have been alleged to have committed a crime and are using psychiatric defense to the crime.

**** Please note: students may shadow fellows conducting consults at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles. In order to gain access there, students will have to undergo a background check before the start of the rotation.**

EVALUATION:

Students are evaluated by faculty with input from fellows, and a written evaluation is completed by the course preceptor. No written or oral tests are given.

***Selective Attendance and Illness Policy**

In order to insure adequate clinical exposure, no more than 3 days of excused absences (to include official Holidays) can be accepted during a selective. This policy does not imply that absences are guaranteed; absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty. Absence due to illness must be reported to the faculty or his/her designee as soon as possible. In case of extended absence (2 days or more), a note from a physician (who is not a relative) is required and the absence will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. A physician note may be requested for any absence, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will generally be required to make up days before a passing grade can be assigned. All absences must be excused and any planned absence must be registered with the preceptor prior to the first day of the selective. Students should take vacation time if he/she anticipates a need for more than 3 absences during a selective. USMLE and BLS/ACLS will not be considered excused absences.