

PSME 401 Nature, Extent and Assessment of Mental Disorders

Convenor: Associate Professor Caroline Bell

This paper covers the symptomatology, aetiology, epidemiology and assessment of the common mental disorders of children, adults and the elderly.

NURS 403 Mental Health Nursing Practice

Convenor: Dr Dave Carlyle

This paper focuses on assessment, clinical reasoning and formulation, and psychotherapeutic interventions in nursing practice.

PSME 404 Addiction Assessment

Convenor: Associate Professor Simon Adamson

This paper covers the clinical assessment and treatment planning for people who present with addiction and related mental health problems.

PSME 439/NURS 433 Intellectual Disability: Theory into Practice

Convenor: Dr Henrietta Trip

This paper introduces the application of philosophical frameworks within practice to support people with intellectual disability to optimise health, behavioural challenges and service access across the lifespan.

About the department

The Department of Psychological Medicine (Christchurch) has a strong history of leadership in clinically applied mental health teaching and research. It comprises a mix of joint clinical/academic, research fellow, teaching fellow and administrative staff. Our joint clinical staff represent a range of professional disciplines, and many have leadership roles within local services as well as national professional roles.

Residing within the department are the Clinical Research Unit, the National Addiction Centre and the world-renowned Christchurch Health and Development Study. Our department's Psychiatric Registrar training programme has a strong reputation across Australasia.

For information relating to admission and enrolment, contact:

Co-ordinator, Student Experience
University of Otago, Christchurch
Email postgrad.uoc@otago.ac.nz

otago.ac.nz/christchurch/psychmed

POSTGRADUATE



CHRISTCHURCH

M00935-GR-2020630

POSTGRADUATE



CHRISTCHURCH

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Forensic Mental Health)

Department of Psychological Medicine
University of Otago, Christchurch



Core skills for assessing and treating people with mental health problems who are at risk of offending, delivered by national clinical and academic leaders in forensic mental health.



The Postgraduate Certificate comprises:

One compulsory 30-point paper: PSME 407 Forensic Psychiatry.

Plus ONE of the following approved 30-point papers:

- PSME 401 Nature, Extent and Assessment of Mental Disorders
- NURS 403 Mental Health Nursing Practice
- PSME 404 Addiction Assessment
- PSME 439/NURS 433 Intellectual Disability: Theory into Practice

Who is the certificate aimed at?

Professionals working with people with mental health problems who are involved with the criminal justice system. These groups include health professionals working in mental health settings (including regional forensic services), staff working in correctional settings, and justice and law enforcement professionals. The programme is aimed mainly at the New Zealand jurisdiction and is expected to attract students from throughout New Zealand.

Students enrolling in these papers or this programme may be eligible for funding. This will be considered once your application is received.

When is it taught?

PSME 407 is taught in semester 2, July–November

PSME 401, NURS 403, PSME 404 and PSME 439/NURS 433 run in semester 1, February–June

The two papers can be completed in either order. Papers do not need to be completed within consecutive semesters, although this is encouraged.

PSME 407 Forensic Psychiatry

Convenor: Associate Professor James Foulds

Course structure:

PSME 407 comprises two compulsory two-day workshops in Christchurch (July and October) plus two compulsory two-day Zoom webinar workshops in August to September. These contact teaching sessions are complemented by self-directed learning, assisted by a study guide; reading lists; online discussions; and the provision of online learning resources. The workshops are led by a range of leading New Zealand forensic mental health professionals and speakers from related fields.

Students also experience peer to peer learning by participating in course activities with classmates from a range of professional groups, geographic locations, service types and diverse cultures.

Course content:

Forensic psychiatry is characterised by the salience of violence risk assessment and management with the therapeutic use of physical, procedural and relational security. It provides mental health expertise at the interface between the mental health and correctional, courts and related systems.

This paper examines key aspects of forensic mental health structured around eight themes:

- Foundations: Including the historical development of forensic services within New Zealand; the consumer perspective; ethical issues pertaining to forensic psychiatry; and cultural aspects of forensic mental health care in New Zealand, with specific reference to Māori.
- Violence risk assessment: Including the association between mental disorder and violence; clinical risk assessment; actuarial approaches to risk assessment; and issues relating to the impact of personality, alcohol and substance use on risk.

- Legal: Including health information, privacy and professional risk; forensic aspects of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 and the Criminal Procedure (Mentally Impaired Persons) Act 2003; the insanity defence; fitness to stand trial; and the role of the expert witness in report-writing and giving evidence.
- Systems: Including mentally abnormal homicide and high-risk patient systems, and challenges in the provision of inpatient and outpatient mental health care by the regional forensic mental health services.
- Prison: Including therapeutic approaches to mental health in prisons; risk assessment in the prison system; provision of mental health care in prison systems; and sex offender treatment programmes.
- Personality: Including examination of conduct disorder and forensic implications; neurobiology of aggression; personality disorder; and psychopathy.
- Special populations: Including consideration of intellectual disability and offending behaviour; women in forensic psychiatry; youth forensic services; and psychological approaches to violent offending.
- Impact: Including consideration of the impact of violent offending on perpetrators; and the impact of exposure to materials related to violent offending on mental health professionals.

Course Material

Detailed course materials will be made available via the University of Otago's Moodle and eReserve online platforms.

Assessment

There are two assessments for PSME 407: an essay (50%) and a written exam (50%).