

Curriculum:

The Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center offers a comprehensive training program that includes both theoretical and hands-on experience. The curriculum is designed to provide fellows with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice forensic psychiatry across a range of legal contexts, including criminal law, civil law, and correctional psychiatry.

1. Introduction to Forensic Psychiatry and Law
2. Criminal Justice
3. Types of Evidence
4. Civil Issues and Litigation
5. Special Issues in Forensic Psychiatry
6. Career Development

This comprehensive curriculum is designed to provide fellows with a robust foundation in both clinical and legal aspects of forensic psychiatry, preparing them for a variety of professional settings. The program includes detailed didactics, practical training, and research opportunities, as well as a focus on professional ethics and well-being.

Didactics:

1.

| Title | Required or elective | Instructor(s) | Length of session | Frequency | Total number of sessions |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Clinical Case Conference | Required | Michael G. Rayel, MD | 1.5 hours | Weekly | 40 |
| Forensic Curriculum Core Topics: Intro to Forensic Psychiatry and Law Criminal Law Correctional Psychiatry Types of Evidence Civil Issues and Litigation Legal Regulation of Psychiatry Children and Families Special Issues in Forensic Psychiatry Career Development | Required | Michael G. Rayel, MD Sarah Wakefield, MD Michelle Benitez, MD Professor Brian Shannon Professor Thoen | 1.5 hours | Weekly | 40 |
| Legal Landmark Cases | Required | Professor Brian Shannon | 1.0 hours | Bi-Weekly | 20 |
| Research and Scholarship Seminar | Required | Regina Baronia, MD Nancy Trevino, PhD | 1.0 hours | Bi-Weekly | 20 |
| Legal Digest | Required | Professor Brian Shannon | 1.0 hours | Weekly | 15 |
| TTUHSC Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds | Required | Sarah Wakefield MD | 1.0 hours | Monthly | 8 |
| TTUHSC-MC's Correctional Behavioral Health Grand Round Series | Required | Michael G. Rayel, MD | 1.0 hours | Monthly | 10 |
| AAPL Annual Review Course | Required | Philip Resnick, MD Deborah Pinals, MD James Knoll, MD Charles Scott, MD | 8 hours a day for 3 days | Once | 1 |
| Mock Trial | Required | Michael G. Rayel, MD, Professor Brian Shannon | Half Day | Once | 1 |
| Department of Psychiatry Connections: A Wellness and Health Disparities Curriculum | Required | Sarah Wakefield, MD | 1 hour | Monthly | 10 |

2.

- a) Evaluating and managing acutely- and chronically-ill patients in correctional systems: As part of their clinical work, fellows will be routinely evaluating and providing management and treatment recommendations for incarcerated individuals. They will be required to make recommendations for the least restrictive alternative for treatment in the different settings, which include: inpatient treatment of acutely and chronically ill patients at the TTUHSC-MCMontford; and outpatient treatment of acutely and chronically ill patients at TTUHSC-MCClements and LCJJC.
- b) Working with other professionals and personnel in both forensic and community settings:
 - On inpatient rotations at the TTUHSC-MCMontford and outpatient rotations at TTUHSC-MCClements, fellows will routinely interact with healthcare professionals from other disciplines (for example advanced practice providers, social workers, nurses, counselors, and mental health clinicians) within the system for treatment delivery and planning.
 - While rotating at the LCDC and LCJJC, fellows will routinely interact with professionals in the community (for example lawyers, police and correction officers, social workers, caregivers, etc) to collect and synthesize information for forensic and treatment issues. Fellows will interact with lawyers during mock trial simulation exercises.
- c) Treating a variety of patients, ranging from adolescence to old age and of diverse backgrounds:
 - In the TTUHSC-MCMontford and TTUHSC-MCClements rotations, fellows will provide direct care and treatment to patients ranging from adults to elderly and from diverse backgrounds. As well in the LCJJC rotation, fellows will provide assessment and treatment to adolescents. The TTUHSC-MCMontford rotation will happen two days a week for a minimum of 6 months, while the TTUHSC-MCClements and LCJJC rotations will happen a half-day weekly and each will last for a minimum of 6 months.
- d) Treating persons involved in the criminal legal system:
 - Fellows will spend at least two days a week at the TTUHSC-MCMontford, and 1/2 day a week at the TTUHSC-MCClements where they will provide direct care and treatment to individuals involved in the criminal justice system. At TTUHSC-MCMontford, fellows will assess and treat patients at the Diagnostic and Evaluation and Rapid Stabilization Units. From time to time, fellows will provide consultation and assess and treat patients at the medical, neurocognitive, and chronic mentally ill units.
- e) Reviewing written records, including clinical and legal documents, and preparing written reports and/or providing testimony in a diversity of cases:
 - Fellows will perform court ordered Pre-Sentence evaluations at LCDC. Apart from evaluating the individual, they will perform a comprehensive review of the medical and legal records before providing an opinion to the court regarding the need for treatment and appropriate settings where applicable.
 - Fellows will evaluate individuals at TTUHSC-MCMontford, TTUHSC-MCClements, LCDC, and LCJJC in cases where sexual abuse is a prominent issue. They will be reviewing records, writing reports, and providing testimony on these cases where relevant.

- Program Faculty members are routinely retained in private cases. Fellows will work with these supervisors on private cases where domestic relations are the prominent issue. As part of these cases, fellows will routinely review records and assist in preparation of written reports.
- Program Faculty members are routinely retained in private cases. Fellows will get the opportunity to work with these supervisors about legal and ethical issues that arise in personal injury cases. As part of these cases, fellows will review records and assist in preparation of written reports.
- Program Faculty members are routinely retained in private cases. Fellows will get the opportunity to work with these supervisors on private cases where they will explore the ethical and legal issues that arise in a variety of settings in the community. At TTUHSC-MCMontford, fellows will assist in the evaluation and treatment of inmates with dangerous behaviors and learn about the ethical and legal issues that arise in the administration and working of a prison psychiatric facility.

f) Under supervision, testifying in court or in mock trials:

- Fellows will participate in one Mock Trial exercise where they will serve as experts. They will be supervised by the program director and faculty. They will be assessed by the faculty members, consultants, and legal professionals involved.
- Fellows will testify as expert witnesses in civil commitment cases and in involuntary medication hearings at the TTUHSC-MCMontford. In addition, fellows will testify in state and federal courts as required in their forensic cases. These testimonies will be observed by faculty supervisors who will also provide assessment and feedback

g) Providing consultations to general psychiatric services on issues related to the legal regulation of psychiatric practice, including civil commitment and dangerousness, confidentiality, refusal of treatment, decision-making competence, and guardianship:

There will be weekly scheduled didactics for 6 hours:

- Fellows and Faculty will have protected time for the following weekly scheduled didactics: Clinical Case Conference, Forensic Core Curriculum, Landmark Cases Class, Research and Scholarship Seminar, Legal Digest Seminar, Grand Rounds at the TTUHSC, Department of Psychiatry, and Correctional Behavioral Health Grand Rounds Series by TTUHSC-MC.

Clinical Case Conference:

This is a weekly conference led by Michael G. Rayel, MD, the Program Director. The focus of this conference will be the clinical practice of Forensic Psychiatry. Every week, fellows will present an ongoing case for a faculty and peer case discussion. Apart from the Program Director, other physician faculty, and non-physician faculty including the program psychologist, other psychologists, and the program law faculty will occasionally attend.

Forensic Core Curriculum:

This year-round lecture series will cover all the core topics in the theory and practice of forensic psychiatry. It will be led by Michael G. Rayel, MD and taught by several faculty members of TTUHSC and TTU and occasionally, invited speakers. Other participants will include the physician faculty and members of non-physician faculty.

Landmark Cases Class: 1.5 hours/weekly: This will be a weekly class focused on Landmark cases in Mental

Health Law:

This will be led by the Program Director and Professor Brian Shannon, and co-taught with physician and nonphysician faculty and lawyers. The didactic sessions will focus on topics including: history of forensic psychiatry; roles and responsibilities of forensic psychiatrists; assessing criminal competence and responsibility; testamentary capacity; civil competencies; assessment of dangerousness, assessment of sexual misconduct; corrections psychiatry; legal regulation of psychiatric practice, writing of a forensic report; and juvenile justice systems.

Research and Scholarship Seminar:

In this 1.0 hour/bi-weekly seminar, residents will develop skills on how to review the medical and legal literature in forensic psychiatry, explore the theoretical and practical foundations of mental health law, study the cultural, societal and ethical influences on both legal and psychiatric applications, and contribute to literature in forensic psychiatry. This will be led by Regina Baronia, MD and Nancy Trevino, PhD with participation from both physician and non-physician faculty.

Legal Digest Seminar:

In these 1.0 hour/bi-weekly sessions, fellows will familiarize themselves with new legal opinions from state and federal courts where mental health/illness is a primary issue. It will be taught jointly by Michael G. Rayel, MD and Law Faculty Professor Brian Shannon with participation from other physician and non-physician faculty.