



National Board of Forensic Evaluators, Inc.
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title:

Testing for Forensic Populations

Number of Training Hours:

40

Instructors:

- Harry Voulgarakis, Ph.D., BCBA-D, HSP, CFMHE, CCCE, Licensed Psychologist
- Aaron Norton, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, NCC, CCMHC, CRC, SAP, CFMHE, CFBA

Continuing Education Information:

The National Board of Forensic Evaluators (NBFE) has been approved by the [National Board for Certified Counselors](#) (NBCC) as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6189. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. NBFE is solely responsible for all aspects of the program.

NBFE is approved by the [American Psychological Association](#) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. NBFE maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

This workshop has been approved for 40 hours of continuing education (32 general hours, 4 domestic violence hours, and 4 ethics hours) with the [Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling](#) and the [Florida Board of Psychology](#), CE Broker Tracking # 20-628296 (Phase 1), 20-628294 (Phase 2), 20-628298 (Phase 3), and 20-628300 (Phase 4) (CE Broker Provider #50-15823). Note: Phases 1, 2, and 3 include 9 general hours and 1 hour of ethics/professional boundaries, and Phase 4 includes 5 general hours, 4 domestic violence hours, and 1 hour of ethics/professional boundaries.

[Psychological Assessment Resources \(PAR\), Inc.](#) guarantees Level C testing qualifications attestation to any licensed mental health professional who completes the entire workshop (all four phases) successfully. Additionally, PAR offers a 20% discount to all course attendees who elect to purchase testing kits from PAR while participating in the course. Please note that

attendees are not required to purchase any testing kits, but some choose to do so while enrolled in the course to take advantage of the 20% discount. Attendees are given instructions on how to access the discount after registering.

NBFE is recognized by, endorsed by, and partnered with the [American Mental Health Counselors Association](#).

Course Description:

Many mental health professionals want to conduct quality forensic and clinical evaluations, but most were under-trained in graduate school and require additional training in the administration and interpretation of psychological tests. This "on demand workshop" is a 40-hour introductory course in which attendees view video-recorded lectures of a live cohort of clinicians who trained with Dr. Harry Voulgarakis and Dr. Aaron Norton, both of whom are experienced forensic evaluators. Attendees can interact with the presenters through email to ask questions, send homework assignments, and receive feedback to ensure that they understand the course material. All attendees who are licensed mental health professionals and who complete all 40 hours of the training course also receive a letter from Psychological Assessment Resources (PAR), one of the nation's largest test distributors, attesting to Level C test qualification status. Attendees may sign up for each phase individually, or they may sign up for the entire course (all four phases).

Testing and assessment instruments have become the rule rather than the exception in the current clinical and forensic arenas. Research and best practices have emphasized that objective testing is more accurate, accessible, and accepted in the courtroom as well as other forensic settings. Unfortunately, many practitioners are woefully under-educated and trained on these valuable tools. For this reason, NBFE has developed a comprehensive training program to help Certified Forensic Mental Health Evaluators (CFMHEs), CFMHE applicants/candidates, and other mental health professionals become more adept, confident, and practiced at utilizing these instruments. The goal is to ensure that these tools are used appropriately, consistently, and in a manner that affords the practitioner as well as the decider the best possible information in any forensic mental health setting.

Fundamental to this course are explanations of theoretical concepts underlying testing and assessment. Content will include use of the scientific method as a basis for engaging in critical thinking and the evaluation of sources of information, a review of empirical studies in psychology to evaluate research findings and evaluate claims of reliability and validity, articulate controversial and ethical issues in psychological testing, use computer technology and appropriate software to complete assignments, and work effectively in small groups. In addition to discussion of theoretical concepts, attendees will learn the history of psychological testing, learn how theories, principles and concepts are used in psychometric assessment and are applied in educational, clinical and employment settings, compute and interpret basic psychometric statistics, and create, pilot, analyze, and provide both a written report (in APA-style) and an oral presentation of the test development project.

Course Structure and Contents:

The 40-hour workshop is split into four phases thusly:

Phase 1: Overview of Ethical and Professional Guidelines for Testing, Malingering, and Personality Testing (10 hours)

This phase provides an overview of psychological testing, psychometric theory, standard score distributions, ethical considerations for testing, and testing qualifications. Tests commonly used for personality testing, detection of malingering, and competency to participate in the legal process (e.g., SIRS-2, MCMI-IV, MMPI-2, TMM, PDRT, GCT, ECST, ILK, TOMI, PAI, etc.) are also reviewed. To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Identify several signs of potential malingering in a real case example;
2. Successfully score and interpret a SIRS-2 answer sheet from a real case;
3. Interpret scores from a Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) test administration;
4. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

Learning objectives for Phase 1 include the following:

1. Apply ethical principles and practice guidelines established by associations in the mental health professions when administering and interpreting psychological tests.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic test construction and score distributions.
3. Identify signs and symptoms of malingering.
4. Administer, score, and interpret the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI).

Phase 2: (Adult Focus) Substance Abuse, Risk Assessment, Anger, Psychopathy, and Sexual Violence (10 hours)

This phase provides an introduction to tests commonly used for risk assessment, anger, substance abuse, psychopathy (SASSI-4, ASSIST, ACUTE, HCR-20, SVR-20, STAXI, Conners, HARE, PAI, etc.). Attendees also participate in a “wrap-up” of key points from the testing workshop. To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Score and interpret a real case administration of the VRAG and SRAG;
2. Interpret response on the RCRAS and provide a summary of RCRAS results and interpretation
3. Successfully score and interpret a SASSI-4 administration from a real case;
4. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

Phase 3: (Child/Family Focus) Tests for Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, School Issues, and Custody Evaluations (10 hours)

This phase provides a review of tests commonly used in the broad assessment of children (e.g., BASC-3) as well as those used in child abuse evaluations, sexual abuse and violent potential evaluations, and child custody cases (e.g., Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test, Parental Stress Index, TSCC, Checklist for Child Abuse Evaluation, Child Sexual Behavior Inventory, etc.). To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Successfully interpret a BASC-3 administration from a real case;
2. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

Phase 4: Intelligence and Adaptive Behavior Testing (10 hours)

This phase provides an introduction to tests commonly used in the evaluation of intellectual /cognitive ability (e.g., RIAS-2, Weschler Scales) and adaptive functioning (e.g., ABAS-3, Vineland-3) that are commonly used cases involving both adults and children with neurodevelopmental and intellectual disorders, cognitive disorders and dementias, TBI, etc. To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Successfully score and interpret the RIAS-2, from a real case administration;
2. Observe a video demonstration of an administration of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-5);
3. Score and interpret an additional psychological test or screening instrument that is not covered in any of the four phases of the workshop via a real case administration
4. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

About the Instructors:

Dr. Harry Voulgarakis is a psychologist and behavior analyst licensed to practice in New York and California. He is also a nationally registered health service psychologist and holds board certifications in behavior analysis at the doctoral level, forensic mental health evaluation, and child custody evaluation.

After completing an internship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Voulgarakis was awarded PhD in clinical psychology from Fielding Graduate University with concentrations in neuropsychology, health psychology, and parent-infant mental health, followed by two years of post-doctoral training in neuropsychological assessment. He also completed post-doctoral training at St. John's University in Forensic Psychology. Dr. Voulgarakis draws on his background in education, has advanced and graduate- level training in law, taxation and finance, and behavioral economics. He has been retained as an expert evaluator and consultant by public, private, and state agencies across the United States and internationally.

Dr. Voulgarakis is an executive committee member of the New York State Psychological Association's division of Forensic Psychology, sits on the editorial board for *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, and serves as a guest reviewer for several other peer-reviewed journals and conferences. He has authored and co-authored over a dozen scientific and peer-reviewed papers and presented at conferences both nationally and internationally. Clinically, Dr. Voulgarakis specializes in pediatric health issues, neurodevelopmental disorders, behavioral and developmental neuropsychology, and issues in family law. He is a professor of special education and psychology at St. Joseph's University, New York, and maintains a private practice in New York City and San Francisco.

Dr. Aaron Norton is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with certifications in addictions, alcohol and drug counseling, rehabilitation counseling, clinical mental health counseling, trauma treatment, forensic mental health evaluation, and forensic behavioral analysis. He serves as Executive Director of the National Board of Forensic Evaluators, a national not-for-profit board officially endorsed by the American Mental Health Counselors Association that provides training, certification, and professional advocacy for licensed mental health professionals specializing in forensic mental health evaluation. He is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of South Florida's College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and earned a BA in Psychology, MA in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, and Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision with a cognate in Physiological Psychology from USF. He serves as Southeastern Regional Director and Ethics Committee Liaison for the American Mental Health Counselors Association and Past-President and Chair of Education, Training Standards, and Continuing Education for the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association. He is the Consulting Editor for AMHCA's *The Advocate Magazine*. He also works at Integrity Counseling, a group private practice, providing therapy, forensic and clinical evaluation, and clinical supervision to mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist interns as a Qualified Supervisor. He has nearly 20 years of experience in the counseling profession, specializing in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues, cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety and depressive disorders, and substance abuse treatment. He is recognized as a Diplomate and Clinical Mental Health Specialist in Substance Abuse and Co-Occurring Disorders by the American Mental Health Counselors Association, and he was awarded *Mental Health Counselor of the Year* by the American Mental Health Counselors Association in 2016, *Counselor Educator of the Year* by the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association in 2016, *Researcher of the Year* by the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association in 2019, and was the recipient of AMHCA's *Public and Community Service Award* in 2020. An experienced writer, presenter, and trainer, he has been published in NAADAC's *Addiction Professional*, *Counselor Magazine*, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, *Journal of Individual Psychology*, *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, and *The Advocate Magazine*, the official magazine of AMHCA.