



National Board of Forensic Evaluators, Inc.
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title:

Testing for Forensic Populations

Number of Training Hours:

40

Instructors:

- Tom Black, Ph.D., LPC, LMHC, CFMHE, CCCE
- Aaron Norton, MA, 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.

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](#), 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.

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. Tom Black, an experienced forensic evaluator. 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 these days. Research and best practices have shown 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, we have decided to develop and offer a comprehensive certification program to help CFMHEs 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 Forensic Mental Health Testing Instruments, Malingering, and Competency Evaluation (10 hours)

This phase provides an overview of 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.). 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.

Phase 2: Tests for Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Substance Abuse, and Custody Evaluations (10 hours)

This phase provides a review of tests commonly used for substance abuse evaluations, child abuse evaluations, sexual abuse and violent potential evaluations, and child custody cases (e.g., SASSI-4, ASSIST, Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test, Parental Stress Index, TSCC, Checklist for Child Abuse Evaluation, Child Sexual Behavior Inventory, ASPECT, etc.). To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Successfully score and interpret a SASSI-4 administration from a real case;
2. Successfully interpret an ASPECT-SF administration from a real case;
3. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

Phase 3: Intelligence and Adaptive Behavior Testing (10 hours)

This phase provides an introduction to tests commonly used in the evaluation of intellectual disorders (i.e., IQ and adaptive behavior functioning) (e.g., ABAS-II, Vineland, RIAS, WISC-V, Terman Study of Intelligence, etc.). To complete this phase successfully, attendees must complete the following tasks with 100% accuracy:

1. Successfully score and interpret the Reynolds Adult Intelligence Scale (RIAS) from a real case administration;
2. Observe a video demonstration of an administration of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-3);
3. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.

Phase 4: Risk Assessment, Anger, Psychopathy, and Sexual Violence (10 hours)

This phase provides an introduction to tests commonly used for risk assessment, anger, and psychopathy (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. 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;
3. Complete an evaluation and feedback form for this phase.