

**Forensic Research Group Dr. Christopher Weaver**  
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**Areas of interest:**

Violence Risk Assessment  
Malingering of PTSD  
Psychopathy  
Violent and General Criminal Offending in Veterans  
Police Crisis Intervention Training

**Openings:**

2-3 new members

**Apply:** Interested students are asked to submit the following to Dr. Weaver by April 2, 2010 via the email address above. Applications will be considered as they arrive:

***Cover letter (2-page max) that includes the following minimum information:***

- research interests in forensic psychology
  - *brief* description of your current career goals (e.g. professor, clinician, consultant, etc.) and populations of interest (e.g. incarcerated offenders, SMI, Veterans, juveniles, etc.)
  - list any interests you have in other areas related to forensic psychology (e.g. suicide risk assessment, sex offenders, training police officers to interact with mental health patients, etc.)
  - your rank order of and interest in the specific ongoing projects (see project descriptions below)
  - Your anticipated available start date (Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, immediately, etc.)
  - Any plans you have to work in multiple research labs should you be accepted into the forensic lab
  - Computer software with which you are particularly skilled (Powerpoint, SPSS, Endnote, etc.) and any programming experience you have, particularly with Mac/iPhone or web page construction and maintenance.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing sample(s), preferably a research paper or forensically oriented work (if you co-authored, make it very clear what parts you wrote and who your co-authors were)

**Selection:** Qualified applicants will be considered by the existing research group. Top applicants may be invited for an interview with Dr. Weaver and/or existing members of the lab. New students will be selected based on merit, interest in forensic psychology, and degree of fit with the existing research team and projects. Students selected for the Forensic Research Group must enroll in the Forensic Psychology Certification Program (any requests for exceptions to this must be stated in your cover letter with justification, and any agreement must be made in writing prior to any offer to be in the lab).

**Notification:** Students accepted into the Forensic Research Group will be notified by email at 10am on Monday, April 19, 2010.

## **Projects:**

1) Offense risk assessment and management of veterans with PTSD and substance use disorders -

This project is in data collection and requires students to conduct violence risk assessments on veterans in a PTSD/SUD treatment study via chart review. We will ultimately be looking at the performance of these measures in the VA system, and the impact that the experimental treatment has on subsequent offending. This project also has the potential to answer some complicated questions about the nature of psychological trauma and psychopathy.

2) Improving the detection of deception in PTSD assessment - We are conducting one of two planned survey projects to lay the groundwork for the larger project. We will move on to testing our ideas with undergrads and possibly with actual PTSD patients. The ultimate goal of this project is to produce a new measure of PTSD that adequately assesses deception (current measures do not).

3) Police Officer Crisis Intervention Training – This is an expanding project being conducted in coordination with community and government agencies. The workgroup has developed and delivered a number of trainings for police officers, loosely based on the Memphis model of CIT training. Current data collection consists of brief pre and post test measures. However, there are plans to expand the research to archival police administrative data.

**Expectations:** There will be numerous expectations of all lab members including presentations at conferences, etc. (if you haven't already, you can email me for a document that details some of these expectations). Generally, you will be expected to attend lab meetings throughout your participation in the lab (including dissertation year), and to contribute to lab-related activities (eventually including your own projects) for about 8-10 hours per week. Most of this activity (except lab meetings, etc.) can happen on a schedule of your choosing.