A PLACE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) positively changes the lives of those in our care through high-quality, evidence-based mental health treatment. Our talented professionals are responsible for delivery of mental health, substance use treatment, and criminal thinking reduction programs across BOP facilities nationwide.

Mental health professionals willing to take on the challenge in this unique environment are rewarded beyond benefits with careers that offer endless potential and personal growth.

BY THE NUMBERS:

122
Facilities

1000+
Psychology Employees

19
Doctoral Internship Sites

30+
Doctoral Practicum Sites

COMMON DIAGNOSES

• Depressive disorders
• Adjustment disorder
• Anxiety disorders
• Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders
• Neurodevelopmental disorders
• Bipolar and related disorders
• Trauma and stressor related disorders
• Gender dysphoria
• Substance related disorders
• Personality disorders
• Paraphilic disorders

PROGRAM TYPES

To address the varied needs of this population, BOP professionals lead several clinical treatment programs across low, medium, and high security level institutions.

• Drug abuse programs (residential and non-residential)
• Trauma treatment program
• Residential treatment for serious mental illness
• Residential treatment for those with intellectual and social impairments
• Sex offender specific treatment (residential and non-residential)
• Treatment program for individuals with personality disorders

BENEFITS

There are a wide variety of personal, professional, and financial incentives for BOP mental health professionals.

• Rapid advancement and leadership opportunities
• Federal pay and health insurance benefits for you and your family
• Early retirement and pension
• Safe environment and tight-knit team
• Career security and flexibility
• Supervision for licensure
• Potential for loan repayment, recruitment incentives, and retention bonuses (details vary by location)
THE PLACES A CAREER CAN GO

A psychology career in the BOP has abundant opportunities based on professional interests and desired location.

Dr. Alison Leukefeld,
Psychology Services Branch Administrator
University of Oregon, PhD. Counseling Psychology

As the highest-ranking psychologist in the BOP, Dr. Leukefeld has had a unique career journey across different locations, roles, and programs.

Types of Roles

Staff Psychologist (Pay Levels GS 11-12)
Early career BOP psychologists are responsible for administering and interpreting a wide variety of personality evaluation methods, preparing comprehensive psychological reports, facilitating individual and group psychotherapy, and conducting treatment and crisis intervention as needed.

Forensic Psychologist (Pay Levels GS 12-13)
Psychologists in this role conduct a broad variety of forensic functions posed by the court including evaluations of inmate competency, dangerousness, and restoration for courtroom procedures.

Advanced Care Level Psychologist (Pay Levels GS 12-13)
These psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to inmates who have been identified as needing closer supervision or a greater level of care due to a moderate, severe or acute mental illness—to include but not limited to psychosis, mania, and/or major depression.

Drug Abuse Program Coordinator (Pay Levels GS 12-13)
DAPCs direct and supervise all clinical activities and staff in relation to the drug treatment at a given facility, including testing, test interpretation, clinical diagnosis, clinical staffing, and serving as the institution’s advocate for drug programs with all staff—including executive staff.

Specialty Program Coordinator (Pay Levels GS 12-13)
Similar to DAPCs, Specialty Program Coordinators manage activities and staff related to specialized programming at a facility like Resolve (trauma treatment) and sex offender treatment. These psychologists have a focused area of expertise.

Chief Psychologist (Pay Levels GS 12-13-14)
Chief Psychologists lead all psychology services and programs at an institution or complex (multiple institutions in the same area) and manage all psychologists providing treatment there.

Here, I can help marginalized individuals who most need treatment.

— Dr. Brittany Winters, Regional Psychologist

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

LEARN MORE ABOUT BOP PSYCHOLOGY AND CURRENT OPENINGS:

Visit: bop.careers/psychologist

Email: BOP-RSD-PsychCareers@bop.gov