

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
MEDICAL CENTERS at EAST ORANGE & LYONS, NJ**

**PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM
2018 - 2019**

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INTRODUCTION

The Psychology Internship Training Program offered by the VA New Jersey Health Care System is accredited by the American Psychological Association. Our primary goal is to train professional psychologists capable of providing a wide range of psychological services to a heterogeneous patient population. Our internship training program is well-established with considerable experience in preparing psychologists to make the step from a graduate student to practicing professional.

The Psychology Internship Program is an integral part of the Psychology Section of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service (MH&BS). Comprehensive mental health services are provided to a wide range of eligible veteran patients in areas such as acute psychiatry, outpatient mental health, long-term psychiatric rehabilitation, geropsychology, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorders, health psychology, behavioral medicine, primary care, oncology/palliative care, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord disorders, telemental health, and neuropsychology. Administrative supervision of the Psychology staff is coordinated by the Associate Chief, MH&BS for the Psychology Section. The Director of Psychology Internship Training coordinates the day-to-day operation of the internship program. We believe that the VA New Jersey Healthcare System offers a high quality Internship Training Program with many clinical and educational opportunities provided by a highly competent, diverse professional staff dedicated to the training of future psychologists. We adhere to a ‘generalist’ model, but interns with strong clinical backgrounds may devote a portion of their internship training to working with a specific patient population.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY & TRAINING MODEL

Our philosophy of training is based on the notion that professional psychologists should be capable of providing a wide range of services to a broad-based patient population. Internship training at the VA NJ Health Care System is designed to provide a comprehensive and integrated experience in working with a wide variety of patients for the purposes of developing highly competent, professional psychological skills. To this end, we value direct clinical experience in the context of close supervisory contact and oversight, supplemented by didactic instruction. We emphasize tailoring internship experiences in accordance with each intern’s unique developmental level, academic knowledge, and prior clinical training to facilitate the advancement of foundational and functional competencies throughout the training year. We also carefully consider each intern’s developmental level in the designation of their clinical assignments and are mindful of providing the necessary support and supervisory structures to ensure early success and growth in confidence.

We are committed to the philosophy that one is first a professional psychologist, and secondarily, identifies with a psychological specialty such as health psychology or clinical neuropsychology. In keeping with this view, we strive to refine fundamental skills while developing more advanced

clinical competencies, such that our graduates are prepared for both the professional demands of entry level practice or further postdoctoral specialty training.

We view practicing psychologists as being able to adopt multiple roles. While this mainly encompasses clinical activities, it can also entail research, supervision, and teaching, plus administrative and program management skills. We view our primary responsibility as training highly competent clinicians who will be able to provide a full range of professional psychological services to a heterogeneous mix of clients. We anticipate that our intern graduates will pursue employment in mental health and medical facilities or postdoctoral clinical training.

The practical, day-to-day work of the professional psychologist is expected to be based upon the application of scientifically-derived psychological principles, theories, concepts, and outcomes in all clinical and professional activities. Thus, we conceptualize the practice of psychology and the science of psychology as mutually interdependent. We attempt to promote in our interns a respect for and knowledge of the current scientific underpinnings and empirically supported bases for clinical practice. We strive to instill in our trainees through supervision, seminars, and modeling the need for competent psychologists to be lifelong learners who are both sophisticated providers and critical consumers of ever changing developments in the field of professional psychology. Thus, the scientific and empirical bases of professional psychology are an inherent part of our rotations and seminars; we attempt to integrate the practice of psychology with its scientific underpinnings. To this end, we adopt a Practitioner- Scholar model of internship training.

In meeting our primary responsibility to train competent clinicians, our major resources are: (1) a large psychology staff which serves in multiple professional capacities at two large medical centers and outpatient clinics in New Jersey; and (2) a diverse, energetic, experienced staff who conceptualize supervision and teaching as a fundamental and integral part of their professional identities.

TRAINING GOALS

The APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) requires that all interns who complete an accredited internship program develop certain competencies as part of their preparation for professional practice in Health Service Psychology (HSP). The internship training program at the New Jersey VA Health Care System is organized to fulfill these training competencies during the course of the training year. There is an expectation that all profession wide competencies will be grounded to the greatest extent possible in the existing empirical literature and in the scientific knowledge base upon which psychological knowledge and methods rest. Consistent with our “generalist” orientation, training in the profession wide-competencies will provide a broad and general preparation for entry into professional practice, postdoctoral fellowship training, and licensure. As the internship program progresses throughout the year, interns are expected to demonstrate each profession-wide competency with increasing levels of knowledge, independence, and complexity.

The following is a list of the profession-wide competencies that comprise the internship training program:

- Research
- Ethical and legal standards
- Individual and cultural diversity
- Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Assessment
- Intervention
- Supervision
- Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary skills

It is the expectation that upon completion of the internship program, interns should be able to demonstrate “advanced competency” in each of the profession wide competencies listed above. In our view, a “competent clinician” is one who is capable of providing a full range of high quality clinical services to a broad-based client/patient population. She/he identifies her/himself as a professional psychologist and is knowledgeable about, and involved in the profession. We define beginning professional status as the ability to autonomously perform routine clinical tasks and to effectively manage complex clinical cases with appropriate consultation/supervision. To this end, we progressively increase the level of demands placed upon interns throughout the course of the training year, commensurate with their increasing levels of competence afforded by their varied clinical experiences and supervisory input.

TRAINING

Structure

The overall operation of the Psychology Internship Program is the responsibility of the Director of Training. The Director serves as Chairperson of the Psychology Training Committee which is charged with the following responsibilities: a) developing policy regarding the structure and operation of the Internship Program, b) reviewing intern rotation assignments, c) consulting on the content and organization of didactic instruction, d) reviewing the progress of interns, e) resolving any issues relating to an intern's personal and professional functioning in the program and f) communicating with the University about the intern's progress in the program. The Director of Training advises and actively collaborates with interns about their rotation assignments and individual training goals.

Orientation Phase

The orientation phase serves to familiarize interns with each supervising psychologist and his/her responsibilities through visits to their respective clinical units. The orientation phase is of major importance, since it is during this period that the intern becomes familiar with the organizational structure of the Medical Center and Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences Section. During this period, interns are required by the medical center to complete a full day of “new employee” Human Resources orientation. It is also during this period that interns along with the Director of Training review the intern handbook containing all policies, procedures, evaluations forms, rights and responsibilities including requirements for successful completion of the internship program.

Clinical Rotations

Several months prior to the beginning of the training year, incoming interns are asked to complete a comprehensive “self assessment” questionnaire which provides a beginning framework for developing competency goals for the ensuing internship year. This information is reviewed carefully by the Director of Training and the Training Committee to further assess each intern’s past clinical experiences, current level of skill development, clinical interests, rotation interests, and areas for future development. Clinical supervisors similarly assess intern’s skill levels and knowledge at the beginning of each rotation in order to achieve rotation specific learning objectives. Clinical rotation activities are initially adapted and tailored based upon this information in an attempt to meet each intern’s level of functioning. The overall aim is to demonstrate progressive acquisition of skills and knowledge throughout each rotation and ultimately over the course of the training year. All planning and goal setting is a collaborative process in which the intern, supervisor, and Director of Training in consultation with the Training Committee work together to enhance competence and professional development. Rotation assignments along with the development of clinical and professional competencies is viewed as a fluid process with opportunities for revisions as interests and exposure to various settings and populations occur during the first rotation period.

In order to offer maximal exposure to a variety of patients and to different types of supervisory methods, training assignments permit rotation through a number of services and training areas. The basic model entails two six-month rotations. The rotations include clinical units that offer a high level of therapeutic and assessment activities along with ample supervisory support. The time commitment for rotations is 3.5 – 4 days/week. Some rotations depending on the treatment program lend themselves to full time assignments while others allow for a 1-2 days per week assignment. Interns may thus choose to rotate in two clinical assignments during any one 6 month rotation. Consistent with our “generalist training model,” this permits an intern to obtain exposure to a broader array of clinical disorders and/or training with different supervisors. Careful planning is devoted to the allocation of time between rotation assignments so that an intern’s training experience does not become fragmented or unmanageable.

At the time of 2nd rotation assignments in March, ongoing therapy relationships between interns and patients are not necessarily terminated. Interns may continue with the treatment of selected patients from the prior assignment, provided that the involved supervisors concur and scheduling issues can be satisfactorily resolved. Such arrangements are often desirable since they further continuous patient care while facilitating training in longer-term psychotherapy.

Assessment Training

We believe that traditional training in psychological assessment contributes to the education of a broadly-trained competent psychologist and is consistent with our “generalist” model. As such, diagnostic interviewing and psychological testing are important components of the internship program. To this end, we offer didactic instruction and weekly individual and group supervision in the performance of psychological testing, assessment, and integrated report writing. The administration and interpretation of objective and projective measures of personality, intellectual assessment, and appropriately selected symptom inventories, are key components of our

assessment training sequence. Each intern will be assigned a primary assessment supervisor and is expected to complete eight assessment batteries during the course of the year.

Supervision

In accordance with APA accreditation guidelines, the internship program at the VA New Jersey will provide a minimum of 4 hours of supervision per week. This will include a minimum of 2 hours of individual supervision. The remaining supervision will be provided in a combination of assessment supervision and group supervision. Depending on the clinical rotation, it is often the case that supervision time exceeds these minimum requirements. The program takes seriously its obligation to provide high quality clinical supervision to our interns.

Modeling appropriate professional behaviors, roles, and boundaries is taken seriously and is an important aspect of our professional identities. Supervision is construed as an ongoing, collaborative process between staff and interns. Supervisors accept as their responsibility providing interns with clinical experiences commensurate with their level of skill development. They also provide relevant professional literature materials and resources while providing timely appropriate supervisory feedback both on an ongoing basis, and at more formally designated intervals. This supervisory relationship serves our training goals by providing instruction in a graduated, sequential, and hierarchical manner. Interns are exposed to more complex clinical tasks as the year progresses and as confidence and competencies build. In so doing, we foster the steady acquisition of increased clinical competencies. Interns, for their part, accept as their primary responsibility, the challenge of serious involvement in the supervisory process. This process can require the intern to engage in close personal self-examination in relation to their cognitive and emotional reactions to patients and of the supervisory process. Similarly, the training program seeks to develop intern's competencies in understanding their own personal/cultural histories, attitudes, and biases and how they understand and interact with people who are different from themselves. To this end, we seek interns who regardless of their theoretical orientation or personal backgrounds have a willingness to engage in appropriate "self-reflection" in relation to all aspects of their developing clinical competencies and professional identities.

Didactic Training

The didactic part of the training program is designed to meet the needs of our interns who come from varied clinical and counseling psychology programs. Thus, it is important, at the outset of training, that our interns share a basic level of professional knowledge necessary to function in a clinical setting. Therefore at the beginning of the year, the seminars impart a foundational knowledge base in their respective topic areas. As the year progresses, the training programs' well-developed and organized seminar offerings enable the intern to receive group supervision, integrate scientific and evidence based underpinnings of clinical practice, and engage in peer supervision and support.

Scheduled every Wednesday, a series of Core and Specialty seminars are offered throughout the training year, alternating monthly between our two campuses. Core seminars are offered throughout the training year in Psychological Assessment & Consultation, Individual

Psychotherapy, Group Psychotherapy, Ethics & Legal Standards, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Methods of Supervision, and Research. Specialty Seminars on various clinical topics occur throughout the training year. Staff members and consultants with expertise in particular clinical areas conduct lead seminars which range from one to four sessions. These include topics in geropsychology, evidence based treatments (including ACT, DBT, mindfulness), health psychology/behavioral medicine, and psychopharmacology.

CORE SEMINARS

Assessment Seminar

The assessment seminar sequence is designed to impart skills in the administration and interpretation of psychological tests that culminate in the intern writing integrated and comprehensive psychological reports. Fundamental aspects include conducting detailed clinical histories, performing diagnostic interviews, plus selecting, administering and scoring relevant assessment measures. Commonly used assessment measures include the Rorschach, TAT, MMPI-2, PAI, WMS, and neuropsychological screening measures. The seminar involves both didactic and clinical case presentations by interns and seminar leaders that address issues such as diagnosis, specific clinical disorders, normative interpretation of tests, and cultural issues. Ongoing group supervision and peer feedback occurs throughout the training year during the assessment seminar. Interns will also be introduced to the prevailing models and practices of consultation including its application in interprofessional/interdisciplinary clinical settings.

Psychotherapy Seminar

The psychotherapy seminar is designed to assist interns in their continued development of psychotherapy skills, with a focus on diagnosis and case conceptualization, the working alliance, treatment planning, strategic and tactical considerations in making interventions, and transference and countertransference. The primary vehicle for skill development is intern case presentations with ongoing group supervision and discussion. An emphasis in the seminar is placed on creating an emotionally supportive environment in which interns can feel comfortable sharing their clinical work with colleagues. Interns are encouraged to become conversant with a variety of theoretical orientations, and to develop the ability to flexibly tailor their interventions based on the needs of the client. Readings are distributed and discussed, with the goal of ensuring that the intern's practice is guided by relevant clinical literature including appropriate empirically-supported and evidence based treatments and culturally sensitive approaches to psychotherapy.

Group Psychotherapy Seminar

Seminar for group therapy utilizes both didactic and experiential tools for expanding the intern's knowledge and experience of group therapy. Discussions focus upon psychotherapy/process, psycho-educational, and problem-focused groups. Specific topics include beginning a group, interviewing patients for a group, entering existing groups, collaborating with co-therapists, and identifying group norms and processes. Strategies for coping with basic group problems are addressed early in the seminar. Interns are expected to present the groups they are leading, with seminar participants providing their observations, feedback, and group supervision about the work presented.

Ethics & Professional Issues Seminar

The seminar includes an overview of the most recent Ethics Code with an emphasis upon application to the intern's functioning in their internship setting as well application to post-training professional settings and roles. Principles of the Ethics Code are illustrated by presentations from staff and interns about clinical dilemmas they have encountered. The latter part of the seminar addresses topics relevant to entry-level professional practice such as legal guidelines, licensure, specialty practice guidelines, interprofessional relationships, and basic issues of practice management and professional conduct. An ongoing theme of the seminar is the recognition and understanding of professional boundaries and personal conduct as it relates to Health Service Psychology.

Individual and Cultural Diversity Seminar

This ongoing seminar series lead by various members of our psychology faculty will address the role of ethnic and social factors that influence patients' psychological functioning, as well as interns' attitudes about working with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Relevant professional literature including theoretical and empirical evidence will be reviewed. Seminar discussion will focus upon issues of ethnicity and culture, socioeconomic status, religious/spiritual values, and gender, among others. Interns will also examine how their own cultural identities and backgrounds influence their implicit assumptions and values in relation to their work as professional psychologists.

In addition, due to our close proximity to New York City and the many educational resources in the Metropolitan NYC area, the internship is pleased to arrange, grant release time, and offer full tuition support for attendance at two professional multicultural conferences/workshops:

- 1) 2-day Annual Columbia University Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education. This well-known and highly regarded international conference not only supplements our multicultural education efforts but it affords our interns exposure to international experts and the latest research in the field of cultural psychology;
- 2) The Annual Rutgers University/GSAPP Cultural Conference. This day- long conference focuses on addressing Culture, Race, and Ethnicity in different clinical and socio-political contexts.

Research Seminar

The research seminar will meet periodically throughout the year. The purpose of the seminar is the demonstration of the integration of science and practice. This area of competence requires substantial knowledge of scientific methods, procedures, and practices. At the completion of the seminar, interns will have demonstrated the ability to critically evaluate and disseminate research through case conference and presentation. The overall theme of the seminar will be to understand

a range of methodologies for determining whether and how psychotherapies are helpful to patients. Interns will take turns leading the seminar and presenting relevant articles.

Methods & Theories of Supervision

This seminar has been developed to expose interns to the theories and methods of clinical supervision within professional psychology. Trainees will learn about Falender and Shafranske's (2004) model of clinical supervision and APA's ethics and practice guidelines for supervisors/supervisees (<http://www.apainc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/APA-Ethics-and-Practice.pdf>) The seminar covers: the purpose, roles, and goals of supervision; the complexity of supervision including ethical, legal, and contextual issues; use of the supervisory relationship to enhance supervisees and their clients; and the factors affecting the quality of supervision outcomes for both supervisee and their clients. Interns are encouraged to discuss their experiences in supervision as well as role play various supervision scenarios.

In order to augment training in Clinical Supervision, interns attend the day-long Annual Supervision Workshop sponsored by Seton Hall University. Each year the annual supervision workshop is led by a leading expert in the supervision/clinical training field.

Consultation & Interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills.

This seminar which meets at various times throughout the training year is designed to expose interns to the basic principles and skills required to provide effective consultative and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills in a large medical/psychiatric hospital. Interns are introduced to an array of common referral questions and the competing and complex demands that often confront the "psychologist as consultant" in interprofessional/interdisciplinary settings. Instruction in focused diagnostic interviewing skills and processes to obtain relevant medical information are important issues discussed and modeled in the seminar. Issues of providing brief interventions, assessing decision-making capacity, integrating community resources, and interacting effectively with medical and interdisciplinary team members are emphasized. Both direct and simulated consultation will occur during the seminar in order to enhance competency skills.

SPECIALTY SEMINARS

Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches

Lead by various members of our psychology staff with particular expertise and specialty interests, this ongoing seminar series attempts to expose interns to the latest evidence-based treatment approaches to various clinical disorders and populations. An important goal of our internship program is for interns to integrate the current research and scientific underpinnings of professional psychology whenever possible. Seminars have included such topics as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Mindfulness, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Evidence-Based Substance Abuse Treatment, Evidence-Based SMI Treatment, and CBT anxiety treatments.

In addition, staff and invited psychologists with expertise in designated areas lead seminars of special interest. Topics include substance abuse, geropsychology, palliative care, neuropsychology, management of pain disorders, hypnosis, biofeedback, ptsd, psychopharmacology, licensing, developing a private practice, early career issues, self-care and recovery models.

Continuing Education & Support Services

The VA New Jersey Healthcare System offers an active and substantial continuing education program oriented to the needs of an interdisciplinary medical and psychiatric staff. The VA New Jersey Health Care System maintains ongoing residency and teaching affiliations with two local medical schools. This creates the opportunity for our psychology interns to attend grand rounds, lecture series, and case conferences available at both campuses throughout the training year in such areas as Psychiatry, Medicine, Oncology, and Neurology. Interns are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of these opportunities.

In keeping with the strong teaching commitment of the VANJHCS, each campus has a medical library which offers a rich variety of professional texts, plus current and bound volumes of journals covering psychological, psychiatric, and medical topics. Audiovisual and CD/DVD materials are available. Internet access is provided to all interns, and a wide range of medical and pharmacological reference texts and patient information resources are available on demand. Medical reference librarians on both campuses support clinical care and research by conducting medical/psychological literature searches upon request. An interlibrary lending program offers access to virtually any journal article or book. Many psychology interns have used our vast and supportive medical library resources and reference librarians in order to complete their dissertations during internship training.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Determination of an intern's clinical competence and professional conduct will be based upon the evaluations by clinical supervisors and seminar leaders. Each intern receives a formal evaluation at the end of each major clinical rotation.

Requirements of Successful Internship Performance

At the completion of the training year, interns will be expected to demonstrate competence in the areas previously mentioned including research; ethical and legal standards; individual and cultural diversity; professional values, attitudes, and behaviors; communication and interpersonal skills; assessment; intervention; supervision; consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills. Such a determination will be based upon evaluations by clinical supervisors, seminar leaders, and the Director of Training. It is required by the completion of the internship year that a minimum of 80% of the competency areas contained on the "Competency Evaluation Form" be rated at "Advanced" or higher. In addition, 8 supervised assessment reports are required to be completed

in order for the intern to successfully complete the program. A detailed review of the competency areas and promotion policy are reviewed during the orientation phase.

The training program strives to ensure all interns make satisfactory progress toward completion of the program requirements. All clinical supervisors, and ultimately the Training Committee, are responsible for identifying in a timely manner interns who exhibit deficiencies in their performance of clinical competencies, professional relationships, or personal conduct so that corrective processes can be implemented. At a minimum, clinical supervisors are expected to review and discuss with the intern at the mid-point of each rotation their progress on each relevant competency that is being assessed on the rotation. It is also the expectation that supervisors will alert the intern to any competency deficiency that may occur when it is first observed.

The Director of Training serves as a primary resource for interns, and interns are encouraged to meet with the Director if they encounter any difficulties in the training program. This “open door” policy provides interns with the opportunity to address concerns at any point during the training year. In the event that an intern’s functioning were to be judged as deficient, a remedial plan would be developed in conjunction with the intern, along with input from members of the Training Committee. Such a plan might include additional specialized supervision, didactic instruction, reading assignments, or personal therapy. Additional stages of problem resolution could involve the Training Committee, Coordinator of the Psychology Section and representatives from the intern’s University. A policy which details stages of intervention, and an associated grievance procedure that ensures an intern’s rights, is distributed and reviewed during the orientation phase at the beginning of the training year.

ROTATIONS

Training opportunities in the VA NJ Healthcare System are described in some detail as follows. Rotations are six months in duration. Some rotations have components that may be conducted on a less-than-full-time basis, thereby allowing the intern to split her/his time during the week and obtain exposure to additional training experiences. Interns may also select outpatient therapy cases that are not assigned to a focused treatment unit.

PSYCHIATRY

The Lyons campus houses several inpatient psychiatry units, involving acute- and longer-term care, including specialized residential units for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders, Women’s Trauma, Geriatrics, and Seriously Mentally Ill. The East Orange campus has comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs. Extensive outpatient psychiatric and behavioral medicine services are offered at each campus.

Acute Treatment/Admissions Unit (Lyons/East Orange)

An inpatient admission unit at each campus maintains 25 beds. The typical length of stay ranges from 3 - 21 days, with most averaging about 7 – 10 days.

Interns assigned to Acute Treatment units have the opportunity to work with patients presenting a broad spectrum of acute psychiatric symptoms, such as adjustment reactions, affective disorders, substance-induced disorders, and exacerbations of chronic psychotic conditions. All interns participate in assessment (interviewing and testing), short-term individual and group psychotherapy, and interdisciplinary team meetings. It is strongly recommended that interns who have not had previous exposure to severe psychopathology complete a rotation in an admission unit in order to appreciate the scope and acute management of psychotic disorders, as well as refine skills in establishing a differential diagnosis.

The Acute Treatment/Admission units are most appropriate for part-time rotations.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Centers (PRRC) (Lyons/East Orange)

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Centers (PRRC) are specialized outpatient clinics providing aftercare treatment and rehabilitation of patients with serious psychiatric disorders, especially schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and major depression. Frequently, these veterans may have co-occurring substance abuse disorders (MICA) for which ongoing treatment is also provided. The PRRC programs are located on both the Lyons and East Orange campuses. Psychologists direct both programs. Multidisciplinary staff includes a psychiatrist, social worker, psychiatric nurse, recreation therapist, and addiction counselors. Each program provides services to about fifty veterans on any given day.

Both the Lyons and East Orange PRRC rotations offer an opportunity to become actively involved in a total systems approach to the treatment of people with severe psychiatric disabilities. The programs are designed to follow the Recovery Model for the rehabilitation of serious mental illness. The programs emphasize group and individual interventions addressing symptom management, medication management, social problem-solving, addiction treatment, and vocational rehabilitation geared to this population. Interventions are provided in a supportive milieu context with supplemental socialization and recreational activities. Interns can act as a case manager for patients who reside in the community, in addition to leading psychotherapy groups, conducting psychological assessments, and providing individual psychotherapy. The intern will learn to implement treatments to deal with residual symptoms including social withdrawal, lack of motivation, and other negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Higher functioning patients will address issues such as seeking employment and independent housing. Efforts to deter decompensation and management of crises may also be anticipated.

The PRRC programs are appropriate for a full or part-time rotation.

Dual Diagnosis Transitional Intensive Case Management (DDTIC) (East Orange + Lyons)

The DDTIC program provides short-term intensive case management (6-8 weeks) for patients with co-morbid psychiatric and substance abuse disorders. Patients are assisted in making a transition from acute crisis management to ongoing involvement in outpatient treatment. Patients are

screened and selected for the program while in an Acute Psychiatry Unit. The program emphasizes the establishment of a therapeutic alliance while assessing psychiatric vulnerabilities, patterns of substance use, and support resources. The program incorporates motivational enhancement, coping skills training and relapse prevention strategies. Treatment is centered around group therapy, including open focus, healthy living and recreational activities.

DDTIC is appropriate as a part-time rotation.

Domiciliary (Lyons)

The Lyons Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program is a 70-bed, time-limited (6 month), residential treatment program for veterans who are homeless or have unstable living arrangements. Many of these individuals will have recently undergone treatment for substance abuse disorders. During the course of their treatment at the Domiciliary, patients initiate employment within the Medical Center and/or seek employment in community settings; thus, their adjustment to competitive employment can be carefully monitored. Psychological services include individual and group psychotherapy, vocational assessment and rehabilitation, and drug and alcohol counseling.

A rotation in the Domiciliary offers an opportunity to assist patients who are struggling with the early phase of recovery from substance abuse disorders and/or reintegrating into the community. Many are addressing long-standing patterns of interpersonal conflict and vocational dysfunction. Opportunities exist for instruction in the treatment of addictions, personality disorders, and problem-solving therapies.

The Domiciliary is appropriate for a part-time rotation.

Mental Health Primary Care Triage Clinic (East Orange/Lyons)

The MH/PC Triage Clinic is located within the primary care medical service on the East Orange and Lyons Campuses and provides same day mental health access to veterans. The purpose of the clinic is to enhance access to mental health services for veterans, provide co-located integrative care, and serve as a mental health consultant to medical providers. Primary responsibilities for interns will include same day triage assessment, provision of time-sensitive individual psychotherapy, suicide risk assessment, and mental health liaison. There will also be the opportunity to provide brief interventions focused on enhancing health behaviors and conducting wellness related groups. Interns will be able to refine their interviewing and differential diagnostic skills as well as learn the skills necessary for successful application of mental health services within a medical setting.

The MH/PC Triage Clinic is appropriate for a part-time rotation.

Mental Health Clinic (MHC) (Lyons/East Orange)

Mental Health Clinic provides psychiatric and psychological services including individual and group psychotherapy for a range of diagnoses that are found in traditional outpatient mental health settings. Patients may be treated both on a long- and short-term basis. Interns selecting this minor

rotation would provide a variety of outpatient psychological services including assessment, diagnosis, triage, consultation, individual, and group psychotherapy.

The MHC Clinic is appropriate for a part-time rotation.

Telemental Health (TMH) (Lyons)

The TMH program in New Jersey was established in 2009. Telemental health improves access to mental health care by making services available at a time and location that is amenable to the Veterans. In NJ, veterans are seen via Clinical Video Technology in one of nine clinics located throughout the state. An intern in this rotation would work as a full member of the TMH team conducting diagnostic assessments and providing on-going individual and group psychotherapy for a variety of DSM diagnoses. Beginning in the summer of 2012, services to veterans has broadened whereby veterans can be seen via their personal computers.

TMH is appropriate as a part-time rotation.

Hackensack Clinic

The Hackensack Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a VA Primary Care Clinic in Bergen County, provides mental health services comprised of two components. One is imbedded in Primary Care Clinic where the psychologist offers triage and consultation to the primary care providers. This is often where mental health needs are first identified in ambulatory care medical patients. Another is the free-standing Mental Health Clinic which is housed in a suite in the same building as the CBOC, staffed by two psychiatrists, one psychologist, and a social worker. The Mental Health Clinic provides psychiatric and psychological services including individual and group psychotherapy for a range of diagnoses that are found in primary care and outpatient mental health settings. Patients may be treated both on a long- and short-term basis. Interns selecting this minor rotation would provide a variety of outpatient psychological services including assessment, diagnosis, triage, consultation, individual, and group psychotherapy.

GEROPSYCHOLOGY

Opportunities for working with geriatric patients exist within virtually all rotations including outpatient psychiatry clinics, substance abuse, and behavioral medicine. A unit specially designed for the care of geriatric patients is described below.

Healthy Aging Recovery Program (HARP) (Lyons)

This inpatient geriatric psychiatry rotation is designed to teach the intern about the manifestation of serious psychopathology in an elderly population. Patients may present with long-standing psychotic disorders, or a recent onset of affective &/or cognitive disorders (often associated with medical disorders). The interplay of developmental history, current psychosocial stressors, health status, and medication/substance abuse effects are critical components in the evolution of patients'

pathology. Interns work within an interdisciplinary team and conduct comprehensive diagnostic interviews and psychotherapy, utilizing interventions geared to the aging individual.

Nursing Home Care Unit (Lyons)

The VANJHCS has a modern 240-bed Nursing Home facility. The facility is divided into four sections; three units are devoted to long-term care for elderly and/or disabled veterans, and one unit dedicated to intermediate-term physical rehabilitation services. An associated Palliative Care Unit is also part of the Nursing Home Care rotation and interns are welcome to spend time in this program as well. Many of the patients have a history of psychiatric disorders. The rehabilitation unit serves individuals who require physical therapy or conditioning prior to returning to the community. While most patients are elderly, younger patients are also treated in the Nursing Home, such as individuals recuperating from acute medical disorders or with degenerative neurological disorders and/or head trauma.

Interns have an opportunity to engage in a variety of services, especially individual and group psychotherapy and cognitive assessments. Patients may manifest chronic anxiety or depression, and discuss adaptation to chronic illness, and end-of-life issues. Multidisciplinary treatment team consultation is a key role for interns, offering an opportunity to present psychological perspectives on patient care to physicians, social workers, physical therapists and recreation staff. Involvement in family meetings is expected.

The HARP and Nursing Home Units are most suitable for full or part-time rotations. Breadth and scope of training in geriatrics can be excellent for the intern with interest in this field, especially in conjunction with rotations in neuropsychological consultation and/or health psychology.

Rehabilitation Psychology (Lyons)

The rehabilitation psychology rotation is comprised of the Evaluation Management and Restoration (EM&R) program, which provides intermediate-term physical rehabilitation services; and the Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program (CIIRP), which provides short-term physical rehabilitation care for Veterans with complex medical, neurological, orthopedic, and surgical conditions with the goal of helping veterans achieve optimal psychological, physical, and social functioning. While many patients are elderly, younger patients are also treated in the Nursing Home, such as individuals recuperating from acute medical disorders or with degenerative neurological disorders and/or head trauma, knee/hip replacement, amputation, and stroke recovery among others that require physical therapy or conditioning prior to returning to the community. As interdisciplinary team work is a condition of practice; interns can expect collaboration with the entire treatment team, as interaction with physicians, nurse, rehabs and other allied multidisciplinary health care staff fosters development of consultation and inter-professional communication skills. In the process of providing assessment, intervention and consultation services; interns will gain a unique perspective of the mind-body connection and

clinical health psychology issues as they come to understand the interaction of preexisting medical and/or psychological conditions and how they come to bear upon the rehabilitation process.

The rehabilitation psychology experience is appropriate as a part-time rotation.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDERS

PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) (Lyons)

A 25-bed, 45-day residential treatment program unit is available for veterans presenting with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This program serves veterans who manifest enduring anxiety disorders, impairments in social relations, and physiological disturbances associated with combat exposure in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Many of these patients present with concurrent substance abuse disorders. A therapeutic community approach is emphasized, entailing cognitive-behavioral, exposure, and dynamic approaches. The unit psychologists are extremely active in leading the program's groups, providing individual therapy, assessment and crisis intervention services.

An intern electing this rotation will learn much about the nature of trauma and its psychological and physical sequelae. PTSD patients represent an excellent patient population for interns to learn fundamental and advanced clinical skills.

The Residential PTSD program is a full time rotation.

Women's Residential Trauma Unit (Lyons)

The Women's Trauma Unit is a 10-bed residential program offering state of the art, evidenced based treatment to women veterans who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (severe sexual harassment, sexual abuse and/ or sexual assault occurring during their enlistment). The average length of stay is 6-8 weeks. Depending upon the needs and wants of the veteran, in conjunction with the assessment of the treating team, specific target goals are identified such as: developing more effective ways to deal with PTSD symptoms, learning to manage feelings related to trauma without resorting to alcohol, substances, or other forms of self-harm, developing increased feelings of safety in the world, or specific exposure based treatment of traumatic material.

Many of the women in the program have co-morbid substance abuse/alcohol abuse issues, eating disorders, and are survivors of early childhood trauma. Additionally, a large percentage have combat exposure and have PTSD issues related to those experiences.

Interns selecting this rotation will learn about the broad spectrum of PTSD, assessment, the use of evidence based treatments such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Cognitive Processing of Trauma. It is also an excellent opportunity to learn about working as an integral part of a treatment team as well as learning to maintain professional boundaries while treating what can be an emotionally volatile population. The Women's Trauma Unit is a full time rotation.

Outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program (East Orange/Lyons)

In addition to the Residential Programs, outpatient services are provided by the PTSD team at Lyons. Patients may seek outpatient treatment as an aftercare component of the residential programs or as the initial phase of care. The outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment team at East Orange consists of psychologists, a psychiatrist and counselors. Functioning as an interdisciplinary assessment and treatment team, the members provide specialized treatment services to veterans diagnosed with combat-related PTSD, typically from service in Vietnam or the Persian Gulf. The team provides differential diagnostic assessments, and on-going individual and group psychotherapy. There is a strong psycho-educational component as well, with a patient-led governmental structure to which the psychologists offer guidance.

Bloomfield Vet Center

The Bloomfield Vet Center is a community Outreach Center which offers a wide range of counseling, referral, and advocacy services to Vietnam Era veterans as well as veterans of post-Vietnam conflicts including current OEF/OIF veterans. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is the most significant issue for those seeking Vet Center assistance. Group and individual psychotherapy services are provided to patients who are struggling with work, relational, and various post-deployment adjustment issues. In addition, a supervising psychologist at the Vet Center specializes in treatment of sexual trauma sustained by both female and male veterans. Thus, there is the likely opportunity for interns to provide outpatient military sexual trauma treatment during this rotation.

The Residential PTSD and Women's Trauma programs are major rotations (3-4 days per week). The outpatient PTSD programs and the Bloomfield Vet Center are most appropriate as part-time rotations (1-2 days per week). Interns with a particular interest in PTSD may elect both an inpatient and outpatient rotation during the internship year, which would provide extensive exposure and experience with this clinical population

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Residential & Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Units (East Orange)

The VANJ Healthcare System offers a comprehensive and integrated series of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services. The programs offer a wide spectrum of care to veterans, including an inpatient medical management unit and extensive outpatient programming (East Orange), plus residential treatment/vocational rehabilitation services for homeless veterans (Domiciliary at Lyons). In addition, psychiatric and specialized medical care is offered concurrently as many patients manifest serious psychopathology (i.e., residual psychotic disorders or PTSD), as well as chronic physical disorders. Assignment to the inpatient or outpatient units is guided by the American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria. The program has an integrative orientation, incorporating cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic and family systems perspectives. In addition, 12-Step Programs such as AA & NA are regarded as a valuable adjunctive approach. The scope of programming allows veterans entering treatment to receive the level of intervention required for their mix of psychological and social needs.

Services are offered by an interdisciplinary treatment team composed of psychologists, a consulting psychiatrist, physician, nurses, social workers, and substance abuse counselors. Activities such as psychoeducation and group therapy are conducted seven days a week in the residential units. Outpatient services (including evening programming) are offered three to five days each week. Individual and marital therapy (when possible) is an integral part of the programming as well. Lectures and time-limited therapy groups are offered on specific issues such as anger management, impact of parental substance abuse and trauma-induced disorders. Attendance at AA/NA meetings, educational and vocational counseling, and recreational therapy reintroduce patients, many of whom are chronically unemployed and estranged from friends and family, to positive, re-socialization activities in the community.

Psychology interns assigned to the Substance Abuse units provide a broad array of psychological services including comprehensive clinical interviews, cognitive and personality assessments, and active participation in treatment team meetings. They provide individual, group, and psycho-educational therapies to both outpatient and residential patients. Beyond these traditional approaches to substance abuse treatment, the SATP incorporates advanced motivational enhancement and relapse prevention techniques. Treatment approaches are tailored to match the “stage of change” of the patient. Interns learn ways of managing resistance and facilitating motivation for treatment that can be applied to a wide variety of psychological problems.

The multiple physical, mental, and behavioral consequences associated with alcohol and drug abuse compound, and can be quite difficult to distinguish from preexisting psychopathology. The residential and outpatient SATP programs, plus the Dual Diagnosis Transitional Intensive Case Management (DDTIC) program, provide interns an opportunity to assess and treat veterans who manifest concurrent serious psychopathology and substance abuse disorders. Emphasis is placed upon facilitating patients’ understanding of their dual disorders, addressing psychosocial stressors and enhancing medication compliance, as well as replacing maladaptive and dysfunctional activities with behaviors that maintain sobriety and psychiatric stabilization. Further, as diagnostic clarification is a key factor in establishing appropriate treatment regimes, psychological testing is extremely valuable. Assessment of psychiatric patients with varying degrees of abstinence elucidates the impact of chronic substance abuse upon cognitive processes and personality dynamics. Thus, interns learn the unique and interactive features of these co-morbid disorders.

The Substance Abuse Treatment Program can be tailored to accommodate full or part-time rotations. Interns with a particular interest in Substance Abuse may elect both an inpatient and outpatient rotation, which would provide extensive exposure and experience with this diagnostic group.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY/ BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Both the East Orange and Lyons campuses offer a wide variety of opportunities to provide psychological interventions to patients dealing with medical disorders. Training opportunities are available through primary care clinics and specialized treatment programs. Medical conditions

commonly seen include cardiac, gastrointestinal and respiratory disorders, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases (hepatitis C, HIV), obesity, and pain.

Referrals for care arise from physicians on inpatient medical units as well as outpatient clinics. A common request is to evaluate and manage patients who experience anxiety or depression in response to a physical disorder. Another frequent request is to make a determination of a patient's decision-making capacity with regard to offering informed consent about a proposed medical intervention, or ability to sustain independent living despite manifesting serious physical or cognitive disorders. Poor adherence by patients to their medication or physical therapy regimen also engenders referrals for assistance. Psychologists have been particularly well-integrated into the Oncology Service. The Spinal Cord Service is another program in which interns can serve as full members of a treatment team.

Intervention strategies usually involve conducting clinical interviews and focused psychological testing. Opportunities exist for a variety of patient-teaching activities such as management of chronic disorders (i.e., diabetes, hypertension, pulmonary), and illness prevention or health maintenance strategies (i.e., smoking cessation and weight management groups). Interaction with physicians, nurses and multidisciplinary health care staff fosters development of consultation and interprofessional communication skills. Further, provision of consultative services in a variety of inpatient units and outpatient primary care teams afford an understanding of each discipline's role in the coordination of services. In addition, the opportunity exists on the Lyons Campus for selected interns to learn basic biofeedback techniques.

The Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology rotations are available as full or part-time rotations.

Outpatient Health Psychology (Lyons/East Orange)

Both campuses of VA New Jersey have health psychologists who provide consultation and therapeutic intervention to outpatients suffering from health related disorders and accompanying psychological sequelae such as anxiety and depression. The promotion of healthy behavior, self-management, and shared goal setting are frequently interventions employed by outpatient health psychologists. These psychologists also conduct ongoing groups and psychoeducational programs promoting healthy behaviors and chronic illness rehabilitation. The health psychologists on this rotation are embedded within the Mental Health Clinics of both campuses and primarily receive their referrals from the interdisciplinary MHC staff and medical units. Interns would function within the MHC treatment teams during this rotation.

TBI/Polytrauma Program

The TBI/Polytrauma program is a component of the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service. The Polytrauma program serves veterans who have sustained physical and/or cognitive injuries during their involvement in the Iraq & Afghanistan wars (Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom). Musculoskeletal disorders, headache, balance/vestibular issues are prototypical physical concerns. Cognitive issues typically entail complaints of impaired concentration,

memory, and executive functions. Emotional disorders and psychosocial issues are often prominent. This truly multidisciplinary program emphasizes collaboration with a wide variety of health care professionals, esp. Psychiatry, Speech, & Occupational Therapy, along with Social Work and Nursing case managers. Interns working in this unit will conduct neuropsychological screenings, assist in cognitive rehabilitation interventions, offer focused psychotherapeutic interventions, and receive exposure to the role of the psychologist as consultant. In addition to Polytrauma services, exposure to general physical rehabilitation interventions is available. Involvement with patients with diverse physical conditions is feasible, such as pulmonary disease and orthopedic disorders. This rotation provides a focused engagement in Health Psychology issues. At this time, this newly developed rotation would be available as a half time or minor rotation.

Center for Health & Wellness Rotation (East Orange)

The Center for Health and Wellness is a new program at VA New Jersey located on the East Orange Campus. The program is highly integrative with the aim of providing collaborative health, wellness, and mental health services within an interprofessional team and accompanying healing environment. The Center is staffed by physicians, 3 psychologists, social workers, pharmacists, nurses, yoga instructor, acupuncturist, and chef/culinary expert. Mental health plays a vital function in the “Center” providing traditional and innovative behavioral health treatments and interventions, not just for traditional mental health problems but also for adjunctive health-related services—improving the overall care of patients suffering from a variety of chronic conditions including pain and diabetes. A psychologist functions both as the program manager for the Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program (HPDP) and the Mental Health Lead for Primary Care Mental Health Integration in the Center for Health & Wellness. Activities from the HPDP team also include assisting/training medical providers to improve doctor-patient relationships and increase patient motivation. The center also includes an active Health Coaching team focused in this area to help providers assist patients in quitting smoking, limiting alcohol use, increasing exercise, and adhering to medical regimens.

Radiation Oncology/Oncology (East Orange)

The rotation in Radiation Oncology/Oncology provides an opportunity to gain experience providing Psychological assessment, consultation, and intervention services to individuals undergoing cancer treatment and their family members. The Intern/Fellow will function as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team that includes physicians, residents, nurses, dietitians, clinical social workers, rehabilitation therapists, radiation therapists, dosimetrists, medical physicists, and technicians. Psychological services provided within Oncology include psychological evaluation and psychodiagnostic assessment, individual, couples, family, and group intervention, symptom management, crisis intervention, liaison with and referral to other medical center services and programs, treatment team consultation and education, and participation in interdisciplinary patient care conferences and treatment team meetings. The primary focus of the rotation will be upon providing Psychological services within the Radiation Oncology service, with additional training opportunities in Medical and Surgical Oncology. Individuals undergoing treatment may be seen at various stages of their treatment process, including during initial diagnosis and treatment planning, active treatment, and post-treatment follow-up.

The Radiation Oncology unit is currently available as a part-time rotation.

Neuropsychology Consultation (East Orange/Lyons)

The Neuropsychology consultation rotation is designed to produce a clinical psychologist who is able to perform a basic evaluation of cognitive systems and discuss the practical implications of these findings (e.g., impact upon an individual's adaptive functioning). This entails identifying clinical syndromes or medical disorders that engender risk of cognitive dysfunction, and assessing major cognitive domains (i.e., memory systems, higher-order reasoning processes, & visuospatial functions). Such skills supplement traditional cognitive and personality assessments, but do not represent competence in neuropsychology. Exposure is provided to patients with a variety of conditions such as neurodegenerative disorders, vascular disease, substance abuse, and mild to moderate traumatic brain injury. Also, the differentiation and/or interaction between neurological and psychiatric disorders are addressed. Training is offered in the administration and scoring of the more widely used neuropsychological instruments. There is ample opportunity for consultation with Neurology Service.

Neuropsychology Consultation is appropriate for a part-time rotation, especially in conjunction with a geropsychology, health psychology, or substance abuse focus.

APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM

Intern Selection

Applications

Internship applicants must be U.S. citizens and currently enrolled in an APA-approved Clinical or Counseling Doctoral program. Additionally, applicants must present evidence on the AAPI of a minimum of 500 hours of supervised intervention and 50 hours of assessment experience.

In order to apply, please submit the following materials:

1. The completed Online APPI (APPIC Uniform Internship Application form).
2. Copy of your vita included in the online APPI.
3. Official copies of all graduate transcripts included in the online APPI.
4. Three letters of recommendation included in the online APPI.

Required Supplemental Materials

5. One psychological assessment report. This work sample should be a recent example of your best work.

6. One treatment or case summary. Please note that both the submitted assessment report and case summary must have identifying information redacted according to HIPAA guidelines.

7. In your cover letter/personal statement of goals and interests in the online APPI, please specify which rotations at the NJ VA Health Care System you are most interested in. These selections are not binding, but help guide our interview and selection process.

Please direct all inquires and correspondence to:

Norman R. Mosley, Ph.D.
VA New Jersey Health Care System
Bldg. 143, Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences (116A)
151 Knollcroft Road
Lyons, NJ 07939-5000
(908) 647-0180 x6442
Norman.Mosley@va.gov

The deadline for receipt of completed applications via the APPIC online matching system is November 1, 2017.

Interviews and Selection

Following a review of the completed applications, appropriate candidates for the program will be **contacted by telephone** in mid-to-late November and invited in small groups to one of the hospital campuses for a formal interview. The visit to a campus will include an extensive overview of the training program by the Director of Training with ample time allotted for questions. Following the group orientation overview, each applicant will receive an individual interview by one or two supervisory psychologists. In addition, applicants will have the opportunity to meet with current interns in a group format. **Applicants should be prepared to interview in December** as well as early January. Our program schedules several December interview dates.

We have eight positions available each training year. We seek students who have had training in a systematic approach to assessment and therapy, and can articulate a coherent theoretical model or framework to their developing professional work. A highly desirable candidate is one who is mature, self-reflective, flexible, seeking and open to supervisory feedback, reasonably well organized, and committed to becoming a highly competent professional psychologist. Finally, substantial progress towards completion of the dissertation is viewed favorably.

In addition, the New Jersey VA Health Care System internship program is committed to maintaining a training environment that is rich in cultural and individual diversity. Our psychology training staff, hospital staff, and patient population is richly and widely representative

of cultural and individual diversity. We therefore are particularly encouraging of applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply for internship training at our site.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Equal opportunity laws and Department of Veterans Affairs regulations prohibit discrimination based upon race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, age, sex, handicap or reprisal. This applies to all programs or activities conducted by VHA. The New Jersey VA psychology internship program adheres strictly to all federal and local non-discrimination laws and policies.

REQUIREMENTS OF APPOINTMENT

Administrative and Financial Assistance

Appointment

All appointments are for a one-year (12 month) period beginning in late August/early September. Interns are required to complete 2080 hours of service and training. This includes ten Federal holidays, thirteen vacation days, and up to thirteen days for illness. Please note that Vacation and Sick Leave is accumulated in 4 hour increments for each successive 2 week pay period completed. It is the expectation that interns will accumulate enough leave early in the training year to accommodate for vacations and time off. It is only in exceptional circumstances that Leave Without Pay (LWOP) would be granted. The Director of Training may also approve leave requests (Authorized Absence) for professional activities such as attendance at conferences and professional presentations, and for activities associated with the completion of doctoral dissertations.

The VA internship stipend is currently \$27,031 per year. The Internal Revenue Service considers the stipend as taxable income. Interns are eligible to purchase health insurance; a choice of several health plans are available. Interns are regarded as temporary full-time VA employees for an appointment of one year.

Background Investigations: “Temporary full-time” appointment status requires that intern candidates successfully matched with our program are subject to many of the same hiring requirements as candidates for full time federal appointment. As such, intern candidates will be required to complete several federal employment forms soon after match notification day. Employment as a psychology intern at the New Jersey VA is subject to satisfactory completion of a background investigation and subsequent finger printing. It is the responsibility of matched intern candidates to provide complete and accurate answers to all questions in the required paperwork. If you fail to tell the truth or fail to list all relevant events or circumstances, this may be grounds for termination of the internship offer or for dismissing a candidate who has already begun the internship program. It is the responsibility of the intern applicant to carefully consider any and all circumstances in their background that could potentially prevent them being granted temporary employment status in the Veteran’s Administration. If an intern applicant is unsure about circumstances in their background that could preclude them from appointment, they should make appropriate inquiries prior to submitting an application to our program. Consultation with

the Director of Training is welcomed regarding employment eligibility questions and concerns at any time.

Physical Requirements: Selected intern candidates will be required to successfully complete a pre-employment physical examination and drug screening. The VA has established a Drug-Free Federal Workplace Policy and violation of this policy at any point could lead to a rescission of an internship offer or dismissal from the program during the internship year.

Affiliation Agreements: An Affiliation Agreement executed between the intern candidate's educational program and the Department of Veterans Affairs is required of all matched interns. Affiliation Agreements are prepared and sent to the intern's Training Director soon after national match notification day. Failure by the intern's educational program to return a duly executed Affiliation Agreement to the Department of Veterans Affairs will prevent the intern from beginning the internship program and may result in rescission of the internship offer. Intern applicants are urged to inform their Directors' of Training to anticipate this requirement well in advance of match day in the event of a match with our program. Selected intern candidates agree to hold harmless the NJ VA Internship Program for failures of their academic programs and institutions in completing this mandatory affiliation agreement process in a reasonable time period.

ACCREDITING BODIES

The internship program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Phone: 202-336-5979
Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

As a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), we adhere strictly to APPIC's policies and procedures. Comments about the operation of our internship program, especially pertaining to the APPIC Match process, may be addressed to:

APPIC Central Office
10 G Street, NE Suite 440
Washington DC 20002
202-589-0600
www.appic.org

Brochure Updates: Please note that the VA New Jersey Health Care System maintains a website which contains this brochure. It is recommended that applicants review the website periodically for changes to the brochure and program descriptions prior to submitting their final application to the program.

The Website address is: <http://www.newjersey.va.gov/docs/njpsychintern.pdf>

(Latest Revision: September 23, 2017)

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TABLES

Date Program Tables are updated: 9/23/2017

Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

As previously stated in the internship brochure, we require 500 intervention hours and 50 assessment hours. Our program is generalist in its approach to training and thus interns who appreciate broad based training aimed at integration of profession-wide clinical competencies are a good fit for our program. In addition, applicants who desire continued training in assessment including personality assessment and the opportunity to be supervised in writing integrated assessment reports are also a good fit. We feel like our brochure is accurate in its description of our training program so please read the above brochure carefully.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

Total Direct Contact	Yes=X
Intervention Hours	Amount=500 hours
Total Direct Contact	Yes=X
Assessment Hours	Amount=50 hours

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants: None

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns : \$27031
 Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns : N/A
 Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? Yes=X
 If access to medical insurance is provided Trainee contribution to cost required? Yes=X
 Coverage of family member(s) available? Yes=X
 Coverage of legally married partner available? Yes
 Coverage of domestic partner available? No
 Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off : 104 hours
 Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave : 104 hours
 In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave? Yes- we have made reasonable accommodations in the past. It is on a case-by-case basis.
 Other Benefits (please describe)

Initial Post-Internship Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts) **2014/15-2016/17**

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts: 24

Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree : 1

	<u>PD</u>	<u>EP</u>
Community mental health center	1	
Federally qualified health center		
Independent primary care facility/clinic		
University counseling center		
Veterans Affairs medical center	10	2
Military health center		
Academic health center	3	
Other medical center or hospital		
Psychiatric hospital		
Academic university/department		
Community college or other teaching setting		
Independent research institution		

Correctional facility	2
School district/system	
Independent practice setting	5
Not currently employed	
Changed to another field	
Other	
Unknown	