

PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP BROCHURE



Phoenix VA Health Care System
Psychology Internship Training Program
Psychology Section (116B)
650 East Indian School Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85012



Director of Training: Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.
Assistant Training Director: Jessica Wertz, Psy.D.
Psychology Service Executive: Joelle Oizumi, Ph.D.



Application Due Date: November 1, 2026
Start Date: July 12, 2027

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Phoenix VA Health Care System's Psychology Internship Program. We currently offer training to eight doctoral interns. Our goals are multifaceted and are focused on developing well-rounded, effective, ethical, and professional psychologists. Our strengths and emphases are in *Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health*. However, our training and supervision are intended to develop individualized skills relevant to the general practice of psychology. Although the majority of the training occurs at our Main Hospital and our 32nd Street Clinic, additional training opportunities exist at Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

You will find that a collegial relationship exists between training supervisors and interns. Psychology interns are expected to be professionally responsible and are encouraged to accept as much responsibility and autonomy as their current levels of knowledge and skill will allow. All clinical work performed by psychology interns is reviewed and supervised by a diverse group of licensed staff psychologists.

The training program places priority on the involvement of psychology interns in direct patient care. As such, interns are expected to spend a minimum of 25% of their time engaged in direct patient care. Clinical responsibilities are assigned by "track" with a minimum of half-time commitment during the training year met in Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health. The remaining time is tailored to the interests and/or training needs of the intern.

Additionally, there is a weekly didactic training seminar, which includes topics in psychotherapy, assessment, health psychology, neuropsychology, interprofessional skills, ethics, health care practices, preparing for licensure, and more. Guest speakers from the community and from other VA disciplines are involved in training.

We are excited about your interest in our psychology internship program and look forward to reviewing your application. Please feel free to contact us with questions as you progress through the application process.

Sincerely,

The Phoenix VAHCS Internship Training Committee

APA ACCREDITATION STATUS

The doctoral internship at the Phoenix VA Health Care System (VAHCS) has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1999. In 2019, the program was reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation and was awarded the maximum 10 years of full accreditation. The next site visit will be in 2028. For further information on program accreditation, please contact:

American Psychological Association
Commission on Accreditation
750 First Street, NE,
Washington, DC
20002-4242

Phone: 202-336-5979
programreview@apa.org
<http://www.accreditation.apa.org>

APPIC MEMBERSHIP

The Phoenix VAHCS is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit or accept for use any ranking-related information from any applicant. The APPIC Match Policies can be found at their website at: <http://www.appic.org/d08match-policies.html>.

COMMITMENT TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

We strive to provide an atmosphere of psychological safety throughout all aspects of our training program, and we feel we have successfully cultivated an atmosphere of mutual respect amongst faculty and trainees. The Phoenix VAHCS Psychology Service aspires to combat prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment, and is committed to the continued development of the personal and professional skills of its trainees and employees. Our Psychology Service aims to ensure that all trainees and staff are treated in a fair and unbiased way and given every encouragement to realize their potential.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Our program is excited to offer a group mentorship program for our trainees. The mentorship program was created to support our interns' overall professional development in a non-evaluative, collegial environment. Topics discussed are varied but include intern's personal and professional development, helping the intern negotiate the internship program, and planning for post-internship goals. The mentorship program is independent of any supervisory relationships to ensure the opportunity for trainees to openly discuss professional issues. Interns also have the option of being connected with an individual mentor if desired during the training year.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURES

REQUIREMENTS

The *minimum* requirements for entry into the training program are as follows (see page 43 for tables with additional details):

- United States Citizenship
- Verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration)
- Enrollment in an American Psychological Association (APA), Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology
- Comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship
- Dissertation proposal approved
- A minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience
- Clinical experience with adult populations in a variety of clinical settings
- Consent to a background check, which requires fingerprinting
- Consent to complete a pre-employment physical and submit a completed TQCVL form, which is provided after accepted into the program

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Students interested in applying for our internship program must submit the following under APPIC electronic submission guidelines:

- Application Form
- Curriculum Vita
- Official Graduate Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All APPIC applications must be submitted electronically following APPIC guidelines (www.appic.org)

- Submit application materials electronically by **11:59PM EST on November 1, 2026**.
- Approximately 50 applicants will be notified of interview offers by **November 30, 2026**. Half of the interviews will occur during the third week of December 2025, and the other half will take place during the first week of January 2026. The Phoenix VAHCS conducts all interviews via video format (vs in person).
- The format of the interviews includes an overview of the program, interviews with 6 supervisors, the training director and an opportunity to meet with current interns.
- To assist the interview panel with their review of prospective applicants following our interview season, we will request that a group photo be taken at the end of the overview presentation on the interview day. **Participation is strictly optional**. If an applicant chooses not to be in the photo, it will not impact any decision making or rankings of applicants.
- Once interviews are completed, the training committee prepares four separate lists for each of the specialty tracks with a corresponding Match Number in bold: Neuropsychology (**167112**), Health Psychology (**167113**), PTSD/General Mental Health (**167114**) and PC-MHI (**167115**).
- Applicants should feel free to e-mail the Training Director for any clarification of procedures or questions about the internship at Matthew.Weyer@va.gov.

PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Phoenix VAHCS is a tertiary care and training facility with 129 medical/surgical beds, 48 psychiatric beds, and a 102-bed community living center. The hospital has been providing service to veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. In 2025, the medical center had over 800,000 visits with a total veteran enrollment of over 96,160. There are two primary locations that our interns complete training rotations. Training rotations in Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Inpatient Mental Health, the Women Veteran's Program are all completed at our main hospital which is located at 650 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85012. Training rotations in General Mental Health, PTSD and PC-MHI are typically completed at our newly built 32nd Street Clinic located at 400 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Interns also have the opportunity to complete training rotations at several Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located throughout the valley. These rotations are typically offered in primary care and general mental health services.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Psychology Department of the Phoenix VAHCS is committed to excellence in training and service. The training committee is heterogeneous in terms of educational and theoretical backgrounds, which allows a wide range of orientations for instruction, observation, role modeling, and professional development. The Psychology Department contributes to the larger community by donating personal and professional services to community groups, participation in university activities, and private practice outside the Medical Center. Members of our training committee have held and currently hold elected and appointed leadership positions in local, state and national professional associations and groups.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.
Training Director

Jessica Wertz, Psy.D.
Assistant Training Director

The Training Director and Assistant Training Director are responsible for the coordination, oversight, and day-to-day operation of the Psychology Training Program. An Executive Training Committee periodically reviews all aspects of the training program and when necessary recommends changes in procedures and policy. Additionally, the Training Committee which is composed of current supervisors meets monthly to monitor the progress of interns on each rotation. This committee attempts to ensure continuity of training among various rotations and training settings. Final decisions regarding the Psychology Training Program are the responsibility of the Psychology Service Executive, Joelle Oizumi, Ph.D.

TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- The Department of Veterans Affairs mission statement is “To fulfill President’s Lincoln’s promise to care for those who have served in our nation’s military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.”
- The philosophy of our program is grounded in the practitioner scholar model, which emphasizes clinical practice and the importance of using theory and research to inform practice. In addition, the practitioner scholar model emphasizes the delivery of psychological services that take into account individual, cultural, and societal considerations.
- The primary focus of the internship year is training. Delivery of patient care is an essential component to training but is secondary to the educational mission of the internship. Interns are encouraged to plan their internship experiences in a manner that maximizes their individual training goals. One of the strengths of our program is the breadth of experiences available to interns and the flexibility for interns to create a personalized set of rotation experiences.
- Our program maintains a generalist focus, fostering general competence over specialization. This training philosophy is based on the view that a psychologist must be broadly competent before becoming a skillful specialist. The internship year is designed to help interns master the common principles and practices that form the foundation of clinical patient care.
- Clinical training is focused on evidence-based interventions. The Phoenix VAHCS Department of Psychology has several staff members who are national trainers and consultants for the VA’s evidence-based treatment programs, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Prolonged Exposure (PE), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Interns have the opportunity to take part in training initiatives, including ongoing consultation groups, with staff members during the year.
- Our training model is developmental, and we recognize that interns will be entering the training year with different levels of clinical experience, skills, and comfort levels. Interns complete a self-assessment at the beginning of the year to help to develop their individualized training plan. Interns are encouraged to take an active role in choosing rotations that will match both their personal interests and potential areas for growth. The flexibility of our training program also

allows interns to adjust their training plan to meet their needs and emerging interests. Over the course of the year, interns progress from receiving close supervision to taking on a more autonomous role.

- Our training philosophy emphasizes a collaborative approach. An important component of all training experiences is the development of skills to work with other psychologists and members of other disciplines. Our interns routinely collaborate with psychiatry, social work, pharmacy, nutrition, and primary care staff.
- There is a focus in our program on creating a safe environment for learning. We value open discussions and processing of challenging experiences that interns might face as they grow into their roles as autonomous practitioners.

PROGRAM GOAL and COMPETENCIES

The **overall training goal** at the Phoenix VAHCS is for interns to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for postdoctoral or entry-level professional practice in clinical or counseling psychology across the following nine profession-wide training competencies:

- 1. Research** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research literature to inform their clinical practice. Some interns may also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects and disseminate findings at the local, regional, or national level.
- 2. Ethical and Legal Standards** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to respond professionally and ethically in accordance with the APA Code of Ethics and relevant federal and state laws, regulations, rules, policies, and standards and guidelines.
- 3. Individual and Cultural Diversity** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to conduct professional activities with sensitivity to diversity, including the ability to deliver high quality services to diverse populations. Interns will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and skills when working with individuals who represent a variety of cultural and personal background and characteristics.
- 4. Professional Values and Attitudes** - Interns will demonstrate an increasing awareness of their professional identity as a psychologist. This includes awareness of and receptivity to areas needing further development.
- 5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills** - Interns will demonstrate effective communication skills and the ability to form and maintain successful professional relationships.
- 6. Assessment** - Interns will develop competence in evidence-based psychological assessment with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and the administration and scoring of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality.
- 7. Intervention** - Interns will develop competence in the delivery of evidence-based interventions for adults with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Interns will select and implement these interventions from a range of therapeutic orientations, techniques, and approaches.
- 8. Supervision** - Interns will demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based supervision models and practices and apply this knowledge in direct or simulated practice.
- 9. Consultation and Interprofessional Skills** - Interns will develop competence in consultation and collaboration skills through working with professionals from a variety of disciplines.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM/EXIT CRITERIA

Interns are evaluated at four points during the year on the previously described competencies. Copies of the Internship evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review upon request. In terms of each rotation evaluation, behavioral exemplars for each competency are rated as “Entry Level,” “Intermediate,” “Proficient,” “Advanced,” or “High Advanced.” There is also a rating of “Skill Deficit or Problematic Behavior” that can be used for areas in which significant clinical, professional, or ethical concerns are noted. Below are the descriptions of the different rating levels:

Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior: Intensive level of supervision needed. Lacks ability to benefit from supervision/team feedback. Lacks knowledge of relevant clinical issues and is not demonstrating progress in knowledge/skill development. Evidence of poor decision-making processes. Unethical or illegal behavior. **Triggers a remediation plan.**

Entry Level (Intern entry level): Regular and systematic supervision needed on most straightforward cases/projects. Integrates knowledge acquired with guidance from supervisor. Decision-making facilitated by supervisory process.

Intermediate: Regular supervision needed, particularly in new skill areas. Developing solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for many clinical issues.

Proficient (Intern exit level/Postdoctoral Resident Entry Level): Supervision needed mainly for unusual, complex situations or for a new clinical skill area. Solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for the majority of clinical issues.

Advanced (Postdoctoral Resident Exit Level): Supervision needed only for unusual, complex situations. Demonstrates more specialized knowledge. Independent decision-making for most clinical issues.

High Advanced: Seeks supervision/consultation as needed. Continues to independently expand knowledge and skills in content area. Demonstrates nuanced decision-making skills in complex clinical situations. Knowledge/skills/attitudes commensurate with board certification level.

Consistent with APA accreditation requirements, we have identified minimum levels of achievement and exit criteria for our program:

For interns to maintain good standing in the program, they must:

1. Rotation 1 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Intermediate” or higher level, with none being rated as “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”
2. Rotation 2 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated as “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”
3. Rotation 3 Evaluation – 75% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated as “Entry Level” or “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”
4. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior.

For interns to successfully complete the program, they must:

1. Rotation 4 Evaluation (Exit Criteria) - 95% of the behavioral anchors rated at the "Proficient" or higher level with none being rated below the "High Intermediate" level, none being rated as "Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior," AND no more than 2 behavioral anchors rated at the "High Intermediate" level within any one competency area (e.g., Ethics, Intervention, Assessment etc).
2. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unprofessional or unethical behavior.
3. Have spent a minimum of 25% of their time on internship engaged in direct patient care. *Please note, it is up to each intern to research the licensing requirements of the state that they plan to get licensed in at the beginning of the training year.*
4. Complete two 1-hr professional presentations:
 - a. Presentation 1 – Interns present a didactic on a topic of choice (typically dissertation research).
 - b. Presentation 2 – Interns present on a complex case conceptualization.

It is noteworthy that the program has successfully graduated all interns, and historically all interns have secured either postdoctoral training positions or employment prior to the completion of internship.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Psychology Internship Program at the Phoenix VAHCS currently offers training to eight doctoral interns in Health Service Psychology with emphases in the areas of Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, and PTSD/General Mental Health. The psychology intern's training plan is individualized to fit their needs and interests. In our program, we encourage interns to observe and experience a variety of supervisory and clinical models. As interns progress in the program and their professional skills and duties develop and expand, they assume greater responsibility in the clinical setting.

At the end of each clinical rotation, interns are evaluated on the previously described goals and competencies. Copies of evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review during interviews. In evaluating interns' performance and progress, applicable statutes and policies concerning due process and fair treatment are followed.

Upon successful completion of internship, interns will receive a certificate that indicates they have successfully completed an Internship in Health Service Psychology. In addition, a final letter of evaluation will be sent to the intern's academic program indicating successful completion of the doctoral internship. This letter serves as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology. The letter will further detail the intern's training experiences in the program and provide an overall summary evaluation.

FUNDING/BENEFITS/LEAVE

VA-funded psychology interns are paid a full-time stipend of **\$36,338**, and payments are every two weeks for a full year. Health insurance is available at employee copay rates. Training stipends are taxable. The Phoenix VAHCS does not offer part-time or unfunded intern training positions.

The official internship year will begin on **July 12, 2027** and end on July 8, 2028. Interns earn four hours of annual leave and four hours of sick leave every two weeks. Additionally, interns are

granted up to 40 hours of authorized absence (i.e., time allowed for attending or presenting at conferences, dissertation defense, postdoctoral interviews) with Training Director approval. We are also excited to share that depending on facility funding, there have been years that we have been able to secure up to a \$1,000 stipend for each of our interns to attend a conference or professional training experience during the year. Although we cannot promise that funding will be in place, there have been times in the past that we have been able to advocate for our trainees to receive these monies. If approved by the ACOS of the Education Service, the \$1000 stipend could be used toward CE training that is either located in Phoenix or virtually. Finally, interns receive 11 paid federal holidays.

FACILITY AND TRAINING RESOURCES

The Psychology Department has staff at the Main Hospital, 32nd Street Clinic, and several Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Interns have access to a large conference room with computers, phones, and a printer. There are dedicated therapy and assessment offices for intern use. Interns have access to a refrigerator and microwave for shared use. The Psychology Department has a administrative officer, a secretary and a program assistant to assist interns with the procurement of supplies and various administrative tasks.

PHOENIX: A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN AND LIVE

Phoenix is the fifth largest city in America with a population of more than 1.6 million. Despite its size, it remains affordable and easy to navigate compared to other large U.S. cities. Phoenix has much to offer in terms of culture and arts. The Heard Museum houses a renowned collection of American Indian art and culture. The Phoenix Art Museum has a fine permanent collection and presents several shows each year. Phoenix's downtown art galleries and music venues host "First Friday" events throughout the year. Phoenix is also home to five professional sports teams: the Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Cardinals, Arizona Diamondbacks, and Arizona Coyotes. Several annual sporting events take place in Phoenix, including PGA and LPGA golf tournaments.

Phoenix offers over 300 days of sunshine! Many sporting activities are popular including hiking, running, and cycling. Several farmer's markets are available year-round in Phoenix, Scottsdale, and other surrounding communities. Phoenix's dining scene has expanded significantly in recent years, and most restaurants have patios to enjoy outdoor dining.

There are six man-made lakes near Phoenix where boating, fishing, and water skiing can be enjoyed. There are ski resorts, pine forests, and the red rocks of Sedona less than two hours away in northern Arizona. The Grand Canyon is a 4-hour drive to the north, and national parks in Utah are only a few hours further. The beaches of Mexico are a 4-hour drive to the south, and California is only 5-6 hours (or a quick flight) west. Sky Harbor International Airport provides daily connections to all major international airports. For additional information about the Phoenix metropolitan areas please go to: www.visitphoenix.com.

PLANNING THE TRAINING YEAR

At the beginning of internship, interns go through several days of orientation activities, which provide the opportunity to visit the clinical sites and meet all the prospective supervisors. An individualized training plan is developed for each intern based on the intern's self-assessment, specific interests, and training needs. The goal is to develop a broad-based training experience that includes exposure to multiple clinical settings and patient populations. The training directors and rotation supervisors are available for consultation to help navigate the various training options. Interns are typically able to participate in the training activities that they desire, but the exact structure and timing of various activities must fit with the intern's training needs as well as the overall organizational needs of the program.

The program is organized into two six-month segments with interns typically participating in two rotations at a time. There may be opportunities for supplemental experiences that are outside of the normal rotation activities. Participation in supplemental activities must be clearly specified and approved by the Training Director and the rotation supervisors. Because interns' interests and priorities often change over the course of the training year, modifications in the training plan can be considered.

THE TRAINING EXPERIENCE

The training program places high priority on the involvement of psychology interns in providing direct patient care. Clinical experiences are obtained through major rotations, minor rotations, and supplemental experiences. Additionally, professional skills are developed in the areas of assessment, consultation, and supervision.

Rotation Experiences

The Phoenix VAHCS has created three types of rotations to provide a comprehensive and generalist training experience for our interns: major, minor, and required. Additionally, interns can complete a supplemental experience to round out their training year.

Major Rotation: The first type of rotation is based on the specialty track chosen by each intern. This will constitute at least 50% of the training year, e.g., Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, PTSD/General Mental Health emphasis. Interns have the opportunity to work with a variety of training supervisors in each of these specialty areas.

Minor Rotation: Second, in collaboration with the training committee, interns select minor rotations to fulfill their training needs. These minor rotations are six months in duration and are offered in a variety of clinics, including Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health, Women Veteran's Program, PTSD, Health Psychology, PC-MHI, and Home-Based Primary Care.

Required Rotation: Given that our program is a generalist training program, all interns complete a rotation in one of our general mental health settings. Interns can choose from completing this rotation in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic or on the Inpatient Mental Health Unit. During this required rotation, interns will receive 1) intensive training in evidence-based psychotherapy with a variety of patients experiencing mental health concerns and 2) participate in

our assessment clinic and complete personality assessments. Additionally, interns may receive supervision/consultation from a psychology resident (depending on resident staffing levels). This rotation is 6 months in duration and can be anywhere from 12 to 24 hours per week depending on the intern's area of interest and need for psychotherapy training. This rotation can be completed in the first or second half of the internship year.

Supplemental Experience: Finally, in consultation with the Training Director, trainees can choose a supplemental experience in one of three areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator, or Research/Program Evaluation. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6 month or 12 month period. It should be noted that supplemental training experiences are not guaranteed and are dependent on a number of factors (e.g., staff availability, number of available slots based on other trainee interests, etc). Supplemental experiences are optional and are described in more detail later in the brochure.

A sample of potential rotation schedules is shown below. There are several different options for building your training experience during the year depending on personal and professional preferences and training needs as well as rotation/staff availability:

SAMPLE SCHEDULES

Major Rotation
Minor Rotation (<i>includes supervising a Practicum Student</i>)
Required Rotation (<i>includes conducting personality assessments/being supervised by a postdoc</i>)
Supplemental Experience (<i>optional experience</i>)

Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Health Psychology – Women's Mental Health Casillas (20 hrs)		Health Psychology Averyt (16 hrs)	
PC-MHI <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Streeter (12 hrs)		Outpatient Mental Health Clinic <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Force (16 hrs)	

Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Health Psychology Burgess (16 hrs)		Health Psychology Breedlove (16 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Lerch (12 hrs)		PTSD Clinic <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Baker (12 hrs)	
Supplemental Experience – Research/Program Evaluation (4 hrs)			

Intern Sample PC-MHI TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PC-MHI Streeter (20 hrs)		PC-MHI Senter (20 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Alihodzic (12 hrs)		PTSD Clinic <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Feld (12 hrs)	

Intern Sample GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
General Neuropsych De La Rosa (20 hrs)		Neuropsych – TBI Clinic Bushnell (20 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health – LGBTQ Emphasis <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Price (12 hrs)		PC-MHI <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Rice (12 hrs)	

Intern Sample SPECIALTY TBI NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Neuropsych- TBI Bushnell (20 hrs)		Neuropsych – General De La Rosa (20 hrs)	
Health Psych: Women Mental Health <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Pleasant (12 hrs)		Outpatient Mental Health Clinic <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Fierstein (12 hrs)	

Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PTSD Clinic Lowrey (16 hrs)		PTSD Baker (16 hrs)	
Inpatient Mental Health Clinic <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> De Los Santos (16 hrs)		Health Psych <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Breedlove (16 hrs)	

Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
PTSD Clinic Feld (16 hrs)		PTSD Clinic Charleson (20 hrs)	
Outpatient Mental Health Clinic <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Morger (16 hrs)		PC-MHI <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Senter (12 hrs)	

Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK

Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4
Outpatient Mental Health Alihodzic (16 hrs)		PTSD Clinic Lowrey (16 hrs)	
PC-MHI <i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i> Rice (12 hrs)		Outpatient Mental Health Clinic <i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i> Jakubowski (12 hrs)	
Supplemental Experience – Disruptive Behavior Committee (4 hrs)			

Additional Training Experiences:

Assessment Clinic: While completing their required rotation (i.e., General Mental Health or the Inpatient Mental Health Unit), interns will participate in a weekly Assessment Clinic. During this experience, interns will attend didactic trainings to become proficient with diagnostic interviewing and a variety of assessment instruments including the MMPI-2-RF, PAI, and MCMI-IV. The Assessment Clinic will give interns the opportunity to staff the case and receive supervision in test administration, interpretation and report writing, including the integration of diagnostic interview information with test data. In addition, interns will regularly participate in the types of assessment normatively done within their selected rotations. For instance, interns will regularly complete diagnostic intake interviews in their respective clinics. They will also be asked to complete more comprehensive personality assessment batteries when indicated and will be required to utilize assessment tools to measure treatment progress in their ongoing psychotherapy cases.

Supervision by a Postdoctoral Resident: While completing their required rotation, interns may also be paired with a postdoctoral resident for adjunctive supervision experience for a six-month period. This is determined each year by resident staffing levels. The intern will be supervised by a resident with mutually identified interests and goals at the direction of a clinical supervisor.

Supervision of Supervision Clinic: Interns will have the opportunity to supervise a practicum student for a six-month period. Interns receive extensive training in how to conduct evidence-based supervision while they are completing their minor rotation. In addition to participating in a half day Evidence Based Training in Clinical Supervision, interns receive weekly group supervision of supervision led by a licensed psychologist. During this experience, interns will learn the fundamentals of clinical supervision, complete assigned readings and engage in role plays to better

prepare them in their supervision of their assigned psychology practicum student. The goal of this practical experience is to help better equip our interns to provide supervision in the future as professional psychologists.

Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar – All interns attend the advanced psychotherapy seminar for the first 3 months of the year. After that, they have the option to continue to attend the seminar or focus on other activities. The Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar is meant to learn innovative therapy skills and techniques to adapt evidence-based protocols for their current caseload. This seminar emphasizes the “art” behind effective psychotherapy.

Self-Care Program - The Phoenix VA training programs strive to promote self-care among staff and trainees. As part of the training year, interns participate in six self-care didactics/experiential exercises (ie, bimonthly meetings).

SUPERVISION

One of the strengths of our internship program is the variety and quality of supervision offered. We have a training committee that consists of seasoned clinicians with diverse theoretical backgrounds and clinical expertise. The majority of our training staff has received formal training, consultation, and certification in one or more of the following evidenced-based treatments: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Problem-Solving Therapy (PST), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) for Depression, and Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT). Furthermore, we are proud to have staff that have served or currently serve as national trainers and national consultants in PE, CPT, CBT for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain, and CBT-I.

Supervision is currently provided via face-to-face or through video format. It is up to each intern to research relevant licensing laws for their state to determine whether video supervision is allowed. Interns receive at least 4 hours of supervision per week. A minimum of half of all individual supervision is provided through face-to-face supervision. Supervision is tailored to the intern’s needs and skill level and is provided in the following formats:

INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION

Psychology interns receive individual supervision by rotation supervisors for a minimum of two hours per week. There is additional time for supervision on a less formal basis as supervisors are readily available for questions and the interns’ need for guidance. Interns are trained in various evidence-based psychotherapies that differ according to the chosen clinic. For example, an intern assigned to the PTSD clinic might be trained in CPT, EMDR, and/or PE protocols. An intern assigned to the Health Psychology rotation would likely receive additional training in CBT-I, CBT-E, MI, ACT, and clinical hypnosis.

GROUP SUPERVISION

Psychology interns participate in required weekly group supervision within the Assessment Clinic and the Supervision of Supervision Clinic. In addition to these required group supervision activities, interns also can participate in group supervision through the Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar,

Academic BHIP Team Meeting, or any of the weekly consultation groups offered in DBT, CPT or MI. Altogether, our interns receive a minimum of 4 hours of combined individual and group supervision per week.

DIDACTIC TRAININGS

In order to facilitate the learning process that occurs on internship, rich didactic experiences are offered in the following areas:

1. We provide an Intern Didactic Seminar Series that meets weekly and consists of general topics such as ethics, individual differences, interprofessional communication, evidence-based psychotherapy, and assessment. Specialty training is also provided in the areas of Health Psychology, PTSD/General Mental Health, and PC-MHI. Recent research studies and/or literature reviews will be paired with each didactic lecture. Articles are disseminated to interns and discussed within the didactic lectures. All intern didactic training courses are held in person on Thursdays at the 32nd Street Clinic which allows interns to spend the day together.
2. In addition to the general didactic series, neuropsychology interns can attend the postdoctoral neuropsychology seminar held three times per month and biweekly case conferences with neuropsychology faculty. This offers a combination of biweekly case conferences.
3. The Psychology Department also offers monthly APA-approved CEU training opportunities covering a variety of topics (e.g., ethics, MMPI-2RF). Learning opportunities are also available by attending Medical Grand Rounds, periodic offerings in the Department of Mental Health, and satellite training that is transmitted nationwide in the VA System.
4. At the beginning of the year, interns will have the opportunity to participate in up to two evidence-based training experiences. These 3-day trainings are offered in the following areas: Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Following the training, interns will participate in weekly consultation to further develop their skills in implementing these evidence-based treatments. Interns who participate in the CPT training are eligible to receive certification through the VA's national training initiative. Additionally, interns can participate in 2-day training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Insomnia (CBT-I) and nightmares. Prior to supervising practicum students, interns participate in a Supervision Skills training.
5. Interns are also encouraged to attend training opportunities outside the VA that fit well with their internship training goals. As noted earlier, an attractive aspect of our training program is that psychology interns can be granted up to 40 hours of authorized absence to attend conferences and workshops.

ROTATION DESCRIPTIONS

GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH

All interns complete at least one 6-month rotation either on the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic or the Inpatient Mental Health Unit. These rotations can be either for 12, 16 or 20 hours a week depending on the intern's area of interest and/or training needs. In this required experience, in addition to conducting individual and group therapies, interns will also complete personality assessments and receive tiered supervision from a psychology resident.

In the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic rotation, interns will have the opportunity to gain experience in the use of several evidence-based psychotherapies that treat depression, anxiety, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder. Interns will develop the ability to conceptualize and create treatment plans for veterans who often have complex issues and/or may have co-morbid diagnoses. There are opportunities to work with individuals with presenting personality structures that make treatment adherence difficult. These rotations also afford interns the opportunity to conduct group psychotherapy in such areas as DBT, anger management, behavioral activation, women's chronic pain group, and CBT-Depression and Anxiety. Collaboration with mental health staff, including psychiatry, nursing and social work is also an exciting part of these rotations.

In the Inpatient Mental Health rotation, interns provide short term individual therapy, group therapy, and conduct psychological assessments. Evidence-based treatments in this rotation include Social Skills Training and Seeking Safety. Interns also engage in treatment and discharge planning and assist with coordination of care with outpatient mental health.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DINO ALIHODZIC, PSY.D.

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, non-combat related PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Alihodzic from an existential-humanistic framework while employing various evidenced based protocols including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Finally, Dr. Alihodzic provides supervision of personality assessments including such instruments as the MMPI-2-RF, PAI, and MCMI-IV.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – MESA ANNEX BUILDING:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KENDAL BINION, PH.D.

The Mesa Annex building is a satellite office to the large Southeast CBOC, offering a unique setting that combines the structure of a medical center with the feel of a smaller outpatient clinic. Interns participating in this rotation will enhance their skills in case formulation, diagnostic interviewing, and therapeutic interventions for individuals presenting with anxiety, mood disorders, personality pathology, and PTSD and other stress-related conditions. The rotation provides the chance to build confidence in delivering structured, evidenced-based interventions such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Interpersonal Therapy (IPT).

Interns can also co-facilitate a CBT coping skills group and, if cases allow, learn how to incorporate DBT and mindfulness skills into treatment.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LEANNE FIERSTEIN, PH.D.

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, non-combat related PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Fierstein to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies, such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). Interns will have an opportunity to co-facilitate DBT Skills Group, Pathfinder Group, and Mindfulness Group. Interns will become a part of an interdisciplinary treatment team (with psychiatric providers, nurses, and social workers) to assess and engage in treatment planning with veterans presenting to the walk-in clinic one day per week.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: J. CAROLINE FORCE, PH.D.

Interns who are interested in working with Dr. Force at this rotation will learn case conceptualization from a biopsychosocial framework with use of various evidence based protocols that utilize a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) approach for concerns such as depression, anxiety disorders (GAD, social anxiety, panic disorder, agoraphobia), health behavior change, or health management. Dr. Force also practices Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Motivational Interviewing, and Self-Compassion based on Veteran needs/preference. In addition, Dr. Force provides supervision for diagnostic assessment.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ZACHARY FORCE, PH.D.

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to assess for and treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, and more within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to build confidence in delivering evidence-based treatments including such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Motivational Interviewing. Dr. Force has specialized training in health psychology (cardiology, weight management, managing chronic illness etc.), and this rotation may provide an opportunity to work with health cases as well as general mental health cases. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – NORTHEAST CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JESSIE GARCIA, PH.D., ABPP

Psychology interns working with Dr. Garcia will develop solid case conceptualization, assessment, diagnostic and treatment skills related to anxiety and depressive disorders, PTSD and other trauma and stress-related disorders, all while considering contextual factors and intersectionality among and between various reference groups (Multicultural Guidelines, 2017). The intern will have the

opportunity to further develop their existing competency skills in delivering evidence-based psychotherapies, i.e., CBT, ACT, IPT, PE and CPT. Dr. Garcia is double-board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology and Clinical Psychology; as well as an EMDRIA certified in EMDR therapy. The Northeast CBOC is small clinic, located in Scottsdale, AZ and the mental health team is made up of Dr. Garcia, a psychiatrist, and a social worker, who work collaboratively with four PACT Teams.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: NAUDIA JAKUBOWSKI, PSYD

In this rotation, psychology interns would be fully immersed in an academic BHIP team with psychiatry fellows and psychology residents, interns, and practicum students. The intern would be involved in daily huddles and interdisciplinary team meetings to treat the Veteran from an integrated care approach. Interns will conduct time-limited, evidence-based psychotherapies including ACT-D, CBT-D, DBT, CBT-T and Interpersonal Psychotherapy as well as longer-term supportive therapy. Interns may also have availability to gain exposure with CPT and PE. The intern will also have the opportunity to be involved with groups including DBT skills, anger management and CBT coping skills. Lastly, interns on this rotation will complete psychosocial assessments and full personality assessment batteries.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JENNIFER LERCH, PSY.D.

In this rotation, interns will gain experience providing psychotherapy to a diverse outpatient mental health population presenting with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma-related conditions, and personality pathology. The rotation emphasizes an integrative, evidence-based approach while incorporating interventions from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Interns will also complete comprehensive mental health intake evaluations, develop differential diagnoses, and formulate individualized treatment recommendations. In addition, interns will also become part of an interdisciplinary treatment team alongside psychiatric providers, nurses, and social workers to participate in assessment, consultation, and collaborative treatment planning.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH - 32ND STREET CLINIC
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JOSEPH MORGER, PSY.D.

In this rotation, interns will have the opportunity to work with DR. Morger and gain valuable skills in treating a diverse outpatient mental health population. Interns will learn evidence based psychotherapies including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Acceptance and commitment Therapy (ACT) to address various mental health concerns such as anxiety disorders, mood disorders, non-combat related PTSD, and personality disorders. Interns will work as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team, collaborating with psychiatric providers, pharmacists, nurses, and social workers to assess and engage in treatment planning for Veterans seeking services within General Mental Health. Dr. Morger's specialized training in adherent DBT will enable interns to gain hands-on experience in providing DBT to veterans with severe emotion dysregulation, including providing individual, skills group, phone coaching, and participating as part of a DBT consultation team.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH - 32ND STREET CLINIC

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: CHRISTOPHER OGLE, PSY.D.

The Southeast CBOC is a very large, newly renovated, outpatient clinic located in Gilbert Arizona with a mental health staff consisting of 6 psychologists, 6 psychiatrists, 2 social workers, 3 nurses, a nursing assistant a mental health pharmacist and 2 substance-abuse counselors. Interns participating in this rotation will have opportunities to learn evidence-based psychotherapies including CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy), PE (Prolonged Exposure), CBT-D (Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Depression), and ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) for depression. There may also be opportunities to learn mindfulness, sleep hygiene, and DBT skills as needed. Psychological assessment for personality functioning is also an option for trainees. Dr. Ogle specialized in PTSD treatment, and this rotation provides an opportunity to work with PTSD cases as well as general mental health cases.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DONNA PRICE, PSY.D.

This rotation includes the opportunity to utilize evidence-based psychotherapy to treat mood disorders, PTSD, and personality pathology. There may also be opportunities to work with people who are diagnosed with conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorders. Dr. Price believes that the best care takes place within a multidisciplinary framework, so in addition to the mental health treatment team, she also works with professionals across disciplines including speech-language pathology, endocrinology, and other medical specialties. Interns will have the opportunity to learn evidence-based treatments including Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapies, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and possibly CBT-Insomnia and CBT-Chronic Pain. Additionally, she is a WPATH certified provider.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32ND STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JESSICA WERTZ, PSY.D.

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat a variety of mental health concerns including, anxiety, mood, PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will provide time-limited, evidence-based treatments for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and EMDR. If cases allow, interns will also learn how to incorporate third wave approaches such as ACT and DBT as well as how to tailor CBT-Insomnia for Veterans with PTSD. Dr. Wertz has specialized training in the treatment of childhood and attachment traumas and thus interns will learn how to tailor treatment to address the common cognitive and affective presentations seen in this patient population. Dr. Wertz also likes to incorporate professional development, leadership skills, and the development of supervision skills into her rotation. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: REBECCA DE LOS SANTOS, PH.D.

On this rotation, interns will expand clinical skills and proficiency in offering group psychotherapy on the two inpatient mental health units, which can serve up to 24 veterans at one time. Veterans

present to the unit with a variety of diagnoses, including schizophrenia spectrum disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders, trauma-related disorders, personality disorders, and neurocognitive disorders. There may also be other psychosocial stressors that are prominent in the their presentation and treatment, such as issues related to housing, employment, relationships, and legal involvement. This rotation includes a significant interdisciplinary component, as psychology works closely with psychiatry, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, social work, recreational therapy, and nutrition to best serve the veterans admitted to the unit. Trainees participating in the rotation will gain experience facilitating groups including Seeking Safety, IMR, DBT, and VA Whole Health. Additional experiences include providing brief supportive individual services, assisting with outpatient treatment planning, and completing psychological assessments. Additionally, one of the two units frequently serves Veterans who present with issues related to aging, which offers opportunities related to assessing and treating mental health issues in older adults.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) CLINIC

The PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) provides specialized assessment and psychotherapy for veterans suffering from military-related post-traumatic stress disorder including combat, sexual or physical assault, natural disasters, and life-threatening accidents that occur during military service. The PCT is housed within the 32nd Street Clinic. The PCT serves veterans from all warzones and conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Lebanon, Somalia, Panama, Grenada, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The PCT also offers specialized services to veterans who are struggling with addictive disorders that co-occur with their PTSD. Therapies offered are generally cognitive-behavioral in orientation, and include empirically supported therapies for PTSD (i.e., Cognitive Processing Therapy; CPT, Prolonged Exposure; PE, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing; EMDR, Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia; CBT-I, and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for couples with PTSD). In addition, interns can deliver adjunctive treatments for PTSD, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for PTSD, Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR), and Skills Training in Affect and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR) to Veterans prior to the Veteran engaging in a trauma-based treatment.

Psychology interns will have the opportunity to conduct intake evaluations with veterans, provide individual psychotherapy for PTSD, co-lead a CPT or couples psychotherapy group, and/or teach coping skills classes that provide education on trauma-related symptoms. There are also some opportunities for interns interested in research and/or program evaluation.

PTSD CLINIC MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)– 32ND STREET CLINIC:
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: NADIA ALEXANDROVA, PSY.D.

Psychology interns will gain experience with assessment and treatment of PTSD and other trauma-related disorders in a diverse Veteran population. Interns will have the opportunity to learn and apply a range of evidence-based treatments, including CPT, PE, EMDR and STAIR. Those interested in DBT will have the option to participate in the DBT training program and use individual supervision to further develop their DBT skills. Finally, this rotation may be of particular interest to those wanting to gain more experience with military sexual trauma (MST). Interns will work with Dr. Alexandrova to review MST consults, assist MST hotline callers with questions and healthcare needs, provide MST-related staff education and participate in outreach events.

PTSD CLINIC – 32ND STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: COURTNEY E. BAKER, PSY.D.

Psychology interns on this rotation will develop skills in the assessment and treatment of PTSD and the assessment and treatment of interpersonal violence. Interns will have the opportunity to deliver evidence-based treatments for PTSD, including CPT, PE, EMDR, as well as CBCT in group format. Interns can also learn to administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) as part of a larger trauma assessment battery. Finally, interns will work with Dr. Baker to co-lead Strength at Home, which is a 12-week cognitive-behavioral intervention for Veterans who engage in interpersonal violence.

PTSD CLINIC – 32ND STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JOHN S. CHARLESON, PH.D.

In this rotation, psychology interns will have an opportunity to develop their therapy and assessment skills while working with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD and other trauma-related disorders. This includes learning to conduct psychodiagnostic intakes with Veteran's referred to the clinic and helping them identify evidence-based interventions that best suit their needs. Interns will also learn to identify resources outside the PCT clinic and get Veteran's connected with those resources when their needs are better served elsewhere. From an intervention perspective, interns under the supervision of Dr. Charleson will learn and facilitate evidence-based therapies including CPT, PE, Written Exposure Therapy, and DBT. Interested interns can also assist with our support group for Vietnam Veterans.

PTSD CLINIC – 32ND STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: SHARONA FELD, PSY.D.

Psychology interns will have the opportunity to develop skills in the assessment and treatment of PTSD and other trauma related disorders within a diverse range of Veteran population. Interns will conduct psychodiagnostics intakes, develop case conceptualizations, and deliver evidence-based treatments, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Written Exposure Therapy (WET), EMDR, and STAIR. Those interested in DBT will have the option to participate in the DBT training program and use individual supervision to further develop their DBT skills. Interested interns will have the opportunity to help co-lead weekly CPT group with Dr. Feld. Interns will also be able to gain experience with Military Sexual Trauma (MST) by working with Dr. Feld to review MST consults, assist MST hotline callers, provide MST-related staff education and participate in outreach events.

PTSD CLINIC – 32ND STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to learn and administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) and PTSD Checklist (PCL-5). This rotation offers unique opportunities to learn evidence-based therapies (EBTs) such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE). Interns will progress from observer to co-therapist with Dr. Luedtke in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (MB-CBCT). Interns will have

opportunities to educate veterans, staff, and the community about signs, symptoms, and treatment of PTSD. Finally, the intern will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the multi-disciplinary PTSD Clinical Team Meetings.

PTSD CLINIC – 32ND STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KYLE LOWREY, PSY.D.

Interns will provide specialized, time-limited, evidence-based treatments for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and EMDR for PTSD. Dr. Lowrey is a local trainer for CPT and has co-led an annual training workshop for those interested in obtaining provider status within the VA. Interns will have a chance to gain experience and enhance CPT skills via an integration of individual and group formats. Interns also can co-facilitate other groups with Dr. Lowrey, such as Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares and Pathfinders (a DBT-based group for the development of emotion regulation and distress tolerance skills). Interns are supervised in incorporating elements of these treatments into their clinical practice to various degrees, depending upon their previous therapy experiences. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

PTSD- SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MATTHEW W. HENNINGER, PH.D., HSP

This minor rotation in PTSD is based at the Mesa VA Clinic, a satellite office to the Southeast CBOC, and offers training opportunities in evidence-based assessment and psychotherapy for the treatment of PTSD and other trauma and stress-related disorders. Interns on this rotation will receive training to assess and treat Veterans with a variety of criterion A events, such as MST, non-military sexual assault, childhood trauma/abuse, IPV, combat trauma, and other trauma sequelae (e.g., accidents, physical assault). Interns working with Dr. Henninger will receive training in either Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and/or Written Exposure Therapy (WET) via individual therapy with the possibility of virtual group formats. Interns who are trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) may also utilize this treatment under Dr. Henninger's supervision. Specialty training in the implementation of mindfulness protocols (e.g., Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, Mindful Self-Compassion), body-awareness interventions (e.g., Internal Family Systems), and women's mental health are also available.

PTSD- SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, PH.D.

This minor rotation in PTSD at the Southeast CBOC offers training opportunities in evidence-based assessment and psychotherapy in the treatment of PTSD. Dr. Hernandez served as a national consultant for the PE rollout initiative and works with interns to learn either PE or CPT therapy in the treatment of veterans experiencing PTSD.

PTSD – REMOTE:

ANCILLARY SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRYCE JUPINKO, PSYD

Because Dr. Jupinko is a remote psychologist, she primarily would be an ancillary supervisor working with trainees that are going through Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing

(EMDR) certification and would serve as a consultant to trainees seeking consultation hours for EMDR.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

The Health Psychology track provides psychology interns with the opportunity to enhance skills in psychological approaches to problems of health and illness. Interns have the option to complete a general health psychology rotation or a specialty rotation in our Chronic Pain Wellness Center. In our Health Psychology clinic, consults and referrals are received from Primary Care as well as from specialty medical clinics including: Sleep Medicine, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Oncology, Audiology, and the Spinal Cord Injury Clinic. Interns can complete organ transplant evaluations, pre-bariatric surgery evaluations and/or insulin pump evaluations. There are also opportunities to complete assessments and provide individual therapy through the Phoenix VA's multidisciplinary Eating Disorder Program. Interns may work with Dr. Truong on the Diabetes Management Program and complete projects within the Diabetes Distress Management Team.

Interns can also complete a specialty health psych experience rotation through our Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). The CPWC team includes health care professionals from the fields of psychology, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, addiction medicine, psychiatry, physical therapy, nutrition, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and recreational therapy. Veterans in the CPWC present with chronic pain and a variety of comorbid medical and mental health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, sleep disorders, substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and personality disorders.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JENNIFER AVERYT, PH.D., ABPP

Interns will have an opportunity to gain experience in health psychology interventions through a variety of referrals from specialty care clinics. Dr. Averyt specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in medical settings and can provide training in enhanced CBT for eating disorders (CBT-E), CBT for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other disorders of gut-brain interactions (DGBI), CBT for insomnia (CBT-I), behavioral treatments to increase CPAP adherence, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for a variety of health concerns. Interns have the option to participate in the interdisciplinary Eating Disorder Program by completing intake evaluations and providing individual/group therapy. Interns can also gain assessment experience on this rotation by conducting insulin pump and pre-bariatric surgery evaluations.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, PSY.D., DBSM

Interns will gain training and experience in providing time-limited, evidence-based health psychotherapy interventions for Veterans with health concerns, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for specific health conditions such as diabetes, IBS, headaches, seizures, COPD, heart failure, cancer, sleep disorders, tinnitus, and sexual health concerns as well as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic health concerns and adjustment to new medical diagnoses. There are additional training opportunities in other brief interventions, including desensitization to increase CPAP adherence, exposure therapy for medical phobias, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Dr. Breedlove also serves as national consultant

for the VA CBT-I Training initiative and is board certified in behavioral sleep medicine and can provide enhanced training in this area.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LISA BURGESS, PH.D.

Interns will focus primarily on developing skills in consultation and working to support providers in their interactions with patients. Both group and individual therapy modalities are used. Training is also provided in psychological assessment as it relates to pre-surgical evaluations. Dr. Burgess is the Health Behavior Coordinator for the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Mindfulness-based interventions. Within this role there are opportunities for both a clinical and a programmatic focus, as described below.

Within the therapy area, psychology interns will participate in work with individual Health Psychology patients. They will also participate in group interventions through the MOVE! weight management and Smoking Cessation Programs. Interns will initially co-facilitate and move to independently facilitating these groups. Within the assessment area, psychology interns will also conduct insulin pump, pre-bariatric, and organ transplant evaluations (i.e., heart, stem cell, bone marrow, liver, and kidney). These consist of a structured interview, paired with varying levels of cognitive and psychological assessment. Within the programmatic area, there are opportunities for interns to participate in clinician coaching. In this role, the intern will work with a variety of medical professionals, supporting their use of motivational interviewing skills with patients.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KATE KRAUTBAUER, PH.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to gain experience using evidence-based therapies to treat a variety of health concerns and disordered eating presentations. Frequent referrals from specialty clinic are for Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) to address IBS, insomnia, sexual health concerns, non-epileptic seizures, migraines, tinnitus, diabetes distress, and multiple sclerosis, as well as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic health conditions. Dr. Krautbauer specializes in CBT for anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, and avoidant/restrictive food intake disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy for binge eating disorder and bulimia, and ACT for poor body image. Interns will be able to complete intake evaluations for disordered eating, as well as provide individual therapy.

CHRONIC PAIN WELLNESS CENTER (CPWC) – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: JESSICA HARTMAN, PH.D. AND JEFFREY MINTERT, PH.D.,

The Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC) is an interprofessional team comprised of pain-focused medical providers, pain psychologists, physical therapists, chiropractors, recreational therapists, and support staff. The CPWC is the first Chronic Pain Clinic in the VA to adopt the Sociopsychobiological model to provide high-value pain care. In this rotation, interns will focus primarily on: 1) Developing and utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) skills and approaches in both group and individual therapy, 2) conducting individual intake assessments to formulate collaborative treatment plans with patients, and 3) learning foundations

and implementation of interdisciplinary rehabilitation strategies for patients with chronic pain. Rehabilitation programs available in CPWC include the Functional Restoration Program (FRP) and other lifestyle modification programs. Individual assessments might lead to a treatment plan that includes CBT-CP, motivational interviewing, behavioral management of migraines, or mindfulness-based/acceptance and commitment therapies for chronic pain. Dr. Mintert has earned equivalency status as a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain providers within VA. Interns may choose to work with Dr. Hartman or Dr. Mintert in the CPWC for 1 day, 2 days, or 2.5 days per week depending on their other rotations.

WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: RHONDA CASILLAS, PH.D. AND ALEXANDRA PLEASANT, PSY.D.

Interns on this rotation will expand their clinical skills and proficiency in evidence-based practices that address the biopsychosocial needs unique to women veterans. This includes working with the maternity care team to provide group and individual therapy to veterans during the perinatal and postpartum periods. Additionally, interns will have the opportunity to work with the gynecology team and gain experience with the assessment and treatment of various presenting complaints, such as coping with perimenopause/menopause, sexual health, chronic pain, relationship difficulties, PMDD, and more. Interns will be exposed to wide range of literature on the needs of women veterans and will develop competence in completing functional assessments focused on the intersection of women's reproductive health concerns and depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use, chronic pain, and sleep disturbances. The intern will also provide triage and care coordination, crisis intervention, brief psychotherapy, and will contribute to program development. Opportunities will be offered to learn evidence-based treatment modalities such as IPT-RMH, CBT-I, CBT-CP, CBT-Menopause, ACT, and DBT skills.

PRIMARY CARE-MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION (PC-MHI)

The Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in functional assessment, problem-focused case conceptualization and brief psychotherapy in primary care clinics. As a member of the Patient Aligned Clinical Team (PACT), psychology interns work closely with mental health nurses, psychiatric providers, primary care providers (PCPs), social workers, clinical pharmacists, and support staff to address mental health issues and health behaviors that present as part of the veteran's primary care visit. These appointments may be in the form of an unscheduled "warm hand-off" from a PCP or nurse, or a scheduled brief psychotherapy appointment. Population-based integrated care provides triage and treatment in a stepped care model for a broad range of medical and psychological issues.

PC-MHI (32ND STREET CLINIC):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: DARRELL RICE, PH.D., PHD., ASH SENTER, PSY.D., AND GEOFFREY STREETER, PSY.D.

Interns will gain exposure to brief assessment and interventions in primary care with opportunities for "warm hand-offs" and same-day visits. Training in short-term evidence-based and measurement driven treatments will be provided, including brief CBT for depression and/or anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-i), CBT for Eating Disorders, Motivational Interviewing (MI), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Problem Solving Therapy (PST), and Prolonged Exposure in Primary Care (PE-PC). There are also additional training opportunities in other brief interventions, including chronic disease self-management, CPAP desensitization, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), and

behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Interns may have the opportunity to co-facilitate groups, including Group CBT-i. Interns will also get experience with and exposure to completing risk assessments, working within an interdisciplinary team, and participating in team meetings and huddles. Training will be consistent with procedures outlined in the VA PC-MHI fidelity training model.

Additionally, interns may work with Dr. Senter in administrative roles supporting care and services for LGBTQ+ Veterans across Phoenix VA, such as PRIDE in All Who Served health education group and staff education.

PC-MHI (SE CBOC):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: SHANNON JEWELL-JONES, PH.D. AND KIMBERLY SULLIVAN, PSY.D.

Interns will gain knowledge and experience with brief assessment and interventions as part of a primary care team, with a significant focus on providing same-day, warm hand-off visits. Training in short-term evidence-based and measurement driven treatments will be provided, including Focused Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (FACT) and CBT-Insomnia.

PC-MHI (NW CLINIC):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: VANJA DJURDJEVIC, PSY.D.

Interns will gain exposure to brief assessment and interventions in primary care with opportunities for “warm hand-offs” and same-day visits. Training in short-term evidence-based and measurement driven treatments will be provided, including brief CBT for depression and/or anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for trauma treatment, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Interns will also get experience with and exposure to completing risk assessments, working within an interdisciplinary team, and participating in team meetings and huddles. Training will be consistent with procedures outlined in the VA PC-MHI fidelity training model.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK

Psychology interns may elect to obtain specialized training in clinical neuropsychology in an outpatient setting. Psychology interns have the opportunity to learn a variety of fundamental neuropsychological assessment skills with a diverse Veteran population. There are two rotation types in neuropsychology: General Neuropsychology and TBI Clinic.

GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: MIA DE LA ROSA, PH.D., ELIZABETH HARFMANN, PH.D., ABPP-CN, DANNY SMEDLEY, PSY.D., AND KRISTA WILD, PH.D.

This rotation involves working with outpatients referred by primary care, mental health, neurology and specialty clinics (e.g. Endocrinology Clinic, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology). There are a wide variety of patients and referral questions. Interns in this rotation can expect to see Veterans with dementia, CVA, TBI, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, bipolar disorder, PTSD, schizophrenia spectrum disorders, and a variety of other medical disorders. The focus of this rotation involves developing skills in record review, clinical interviewing, test administration,

scoring, case conceptualization and interpretation, writing reports and communicating results to patients, family and/or other interdisciplinary professional staff.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CLINIC – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MARY LU BUSHNELL, PSY.D., ABPP-CN

The TBI Clinic evaluates Veterans who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), or Operation New Dawn (OND) for a history of possible deployment-related head injury/concussion. In this clinic the intern works in a primary care setting to provide neuropsychological screening evaluations. Neuropsychological screenings are followed by a joint interview with a primary care provider. At the conclusion of the interview, treatment recommendations and additional referrals are provided when indicated. The intern will also be responsible for presenting findings to an interdisciplinary team, which includes physiatrists, physician assistants, nurse case managers, social workers, speech therapists, and other psychologists or neuropsychologists. The intern will also have the opportunity to present relevant neuropsychological topics to this interdisciplinary team. Psychology interns will learn about the effects of blast injury and the physiological events that follow a traumatic brain injury. Differential diagnosis between the cognitive effects of PTSD and TBI is the primary referral question in this population. Although the great majority of referrals in this rotation involve OEF/OIF/OND Veterans, there will be occasional opportunities to work with other Veteran populations. This rotation is offered on a part time and/or full-time basis.

The psychology intern will also have an opportunity to co-lead the “Brain Boosters” Cognitive Enhancement Group for Veterans. This 9-week group combines didactic education and experiential exercises in order to help group members learn how to optimize their strengths and enhance their brain functioning. The intern may have the opportunity to be involved in splinter groups, which are 3-5-week groups that cover information presented in the Brain Boosters group in more detail. Examples of prior splinter groups covered topics such as communication skills, memory strategies, and stress management. Possible opportunities for research with this population may also be available.

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES

In consultation with the Training Director, trainees can choose a supplemental experience in one of two areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee or Research/Program Evaluation. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6 month or 12 month period. Below provides a description of these supplemental training experiences. It should be noted that supplemental training experiences are not guaranteed and are dependent on a number of factors (e.g., staff availability, number of available slots based on other trainee interests, etc).

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR COMMITTEE:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ADRIANA WEYER, PH.D.

Although not offered as a full rotation, trainees will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Weyer as part of the Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC), a multidisciplinary group of staff that address reports of Patient-Generated and Visitor-Generated Disruptive Behavior. The DBC identifies risks associated with reported behaviors and assists the medical center in developing risk mitigation strategies. The DBC provides trainees with an opportunity to learn about the violence risk

assessment process by participating in DBC meetings and reviewing individual cases to present to the DBC. A trainee completing this experience might work complete supplementary DBC training for 4 hours a week.

Research/Program Evaluation:

Supervising Psychologists: BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D. AND BRAD BELSHER, PH.D.

Trainees will have the opportunity to learn about and be involved with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process in VHA and to collaborate with other disciplines in planning research projects, data collection and analysis, and manuscript preparation. Trainees may learn how to conceptualize, and conduct studies based on CPRS data. This rotation may be particularly appealing to trainees who wish to maintain involvement with research and continue making scientific contributions while engaged in clinical work while on internship and/or in their future careers. Because of the limited number of faculty, this rotation is considered on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the training director.

OTHER ROTATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The Phoenix VAHCS has successfully recruited several new Psychology positions. When possible, the executive training committee attempts to secure additional training opportunities that are consistent with the program's philosophy and goals that may round out a training experience for the intern.

PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING COMMITTEE

NADIA ALEXANDROVA, Psy.D.
Roosevelt University, 2020
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD Clinical Team – Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator)

Dr. Alexandrova is a clinical psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team and has been serving as the MST Coordinator since March of 2022. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Spokane VAMC and her post-doctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA. Dr. Alexandrova specializes in the treatment of PTSD and other trauma-related disorders and has particular interests in MST, interpersonal trauma, developmental trauma, and mindfulness-based interventions. She utilizes a range of evidence-based psychotherapies that include CPT, EMDR, PE, WET, STAIR, and DBT. In clinical practice, Dr. Alexandrova takes a strength-based approach and aims to individualize care in the context of structured, time-limited psychotherapy.

DINO ALIHODZIC, Psy.D.
Midwestern University, 2019
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Alihodzic is a clinical psychologist working the general mental health at the at the 32nd Street Clinic location. He completed internship at a community mental health clinic serving the Phoenix Valley and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA in the general mental health track. In his clinical role, Dr. Alihodzic's utilizes an existential-humanistic framework, while employing various evidenced based protocols including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Dr. Alihodzic's primary roles include assessment and treatment of wide ranging disorders in. Further, Dr. Alihodzic provides occasional coverage for medical psychology on inpatient medical floors.

JENNIFER AVERYT, Ph.D., ABPP
Ohio University, 2012
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Health Psychology)

Dr. Averyt is a member of the Health Psychology team and lead psychologist for the Phoenix VA Eating Disorder Program. After completing her internship at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Averyt completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center. Dr. Averyt has training and experience in a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies including CBT for depression and anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), enhanced CBT (CBT-E) for eating disorders, and Motivational Interviewing. Her interests include eating disorders, sleep disorders, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, psycho-oncology, and chronic pain. Dr. Averyt is board certified in clinical health psychology and is a national consultant for the VA CBT-I Training initiative.

COURTNEY E. BAKER, Psy.D..
 Midwestern University, 2015
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (Chief of Organization Health Experience Officer; PTSD Supervisor)

Dr. Courtney E. Baker is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Chief of Organizational Health Experience Officer. As Chief of Organizational Health she develops system-wide strategies to support a thriving workforce and culture that cultivates professional fulfillment, efficiency of practice and resilience. In addition to her role as Chief of Organizational Health she is a trauma specialist who spent 8.5 years working in the Phoenix PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) where she was PTSD Team Lead for the last 5 years.

She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat PTSD in individual and group formats. For the last 5.5 years she has had the privilege to train over 150 VA staff across the country in Strength at Home, an evidence-based intervention for Veterans who use intimate partner violence behaviors (IPV). Dr. Baker has been involved with VA research and is a Co-Investigator for two ongoing projects looking at an adjunctive motivational enhancement intervention to prevent IPV and a case formulation approach to target impairment in psychosocial functioning associated with PTSD. She has participated on several local workgroups and is a Certified Yellow Belt Leader and Prosci Change Management Practitioner.

BRAD BELSHER, Ph.D.
 Palo Alto University, 2010
 Licensed Psychologist in the Commonwealth of Virginia
 (Inpatient Mental Health, Program Manager for Acute Mental Health)

Dr. Belsher is the Psychology Program Manager for Acute Mental Health and also serves as the Director for Process Improvement in the Mental Health Service Line. He is a voting member on the VA Central IRB and contributes to systematic reviews produced by the VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP). He completed his internship training and postdoctoral fellowship at the Washington DC VA. Prior to coming to the Phoenix VA, Dr. Belsher spent 8 years working for the Department of Defense where he conducted clinical research focused on enhancing the delivery of psychological treatments in the Military Health System. Dr. Belsher previously directed an evidence synthesis team for the Defense Health Agency and was responsible for providing objective and comprehensive evidence reviews on psychological health topics in response to congressional requests, stakeholder needs, and provider inquiries. Dr. Belsher has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles in the areas of health systems research, population-based care, and systematic reviews on best practices.

KENDAL BINION, PH.D.
 University of Wyoming, 2021
 Licensed Psychologist in Kansas
 (Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Binion provides individual and group outpatient psychotherapy in General Mental Health at the Mesa Annex building (the satellite office to the SE CBOC). Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, having completed her doctorate at the University of Wyoming and internship at the Phoenix VA. During graduate school, Dr. Binion's clinical training emphasized the treatment for sexual assault and IPV, particularly among marginalized communities and rural populations. Her dissertation focused on clinical implications on posttraumatic adjustment among LGB survivors of sexual violence. She provides Evidenced-Based Practice (i.e., ACT, CBT-D, CBT-I, CPT, IPT) to treat a variety of clinical presentations and has completed training, and has certified provider status, in

Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Interpersonal Therapy for Depression (IPT-D). She also has extensive experience in SA/DV advocacy, having served as a hospital response advocate for a rape crisis center for 6 years, provided advocacy services for college survivors of SA/DV/stalking including campus-wide violence prevention efforts and co-founding a sexual assault support group while in graduate school.

ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, Psy.D., DBSM
Nova Southeastern University
Licensed Psychologist in Louisiana
(Health Psychology)

Dr. Breedlove provides psychotherapy services in the multidisciplinary setting of Phoenix VA's main hospital. She was primarily trained in cognitive behavioral, interpersonal, and acceptance and commitment treatment approaches over the course of her doctoral training at Nova Southeastern University and clinical Internship at Dayton VA Medical Center. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in the area of Health Psychology/Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) at the Phoenix VA. She has completed board certification in behavioral sleep medicine. In her current role as a staff psychologist on the health psychology team, Dr. Breedlove provides time-limited, evidence-based psychotherapy interventions for Veterans with health concerns, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for specific health conditions such as diabetes, IBS, headaches, seizures, COPD, heart failure, cancer, sleep disorders, tinnitus, and sexual health concerns as well as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic health conditions and adjustment to new medical diagnoses. Treatment services also include CPAP desensitization, exposure therapy for medical phobias, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Her training and experience has enhanced her proficiency in multiple treatment approaches, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Interpersonal Therapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Brief Prolonged Exposure (PE-PC), Exposure, Relaxation, and Rescripting Therapy (ERRT) for nightmares, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Breedlove also serves as national consultant for the VA CBT-I Training initiative. Her primary interests include sleep disorders, anxiety disorders, women's health, and trauma-informed treatment.

LISA BURGESS, Ph.D.
Arizona State University, 2005
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Health Behavior Coordinator)

Dr. Burgess is a Health Psychologist whose role is primarily with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Team as the Health Behavior Coordinator. The Health Behavior Coordinator develops and evaluates programs to enhance wellness for primarily Veterans, but also for VA employees. Involvement with facility-level policy and decision-making is integral to the role. There is also a clinical component consisting of smoking cessation, fitness and nutrition, and transplant evaluations. Dr. Burgess completed her doctoral internship in Geropsychology at the Palo Alto VA Health Care System and then went on to a postdoctoral fellowship at this facility in Health Psychology. She was previously employed both in a local group practice and at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Dr. Burgess's orientation is primarily cognitive behavior with a focus on empirically supported treatments and common factors. Her interests include: adaptation

to illness, healthy aging, stress and coping, grief and loss, motivational interviewing, and mindfulness-based interventions.

MARY LU BUSHNELL, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
Argosy University/Phoenix, 2006
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology)

Dr. Bushnell's clinical interests include traumatic brain injury and dementia. Duties include neuropsychological evaluation and consultation to the postdeployment clinical team, TBI Clinic, and conducting outpatient neuropsychological evaluations. Dr. Bushnell co-developed and leads the Brain Boosters cognitive enhancement group. Prior to joining the VA in 2007, Dr. Bushnell worked at a community agency where she conducted neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive rehabilitation and psychotherapy with individuals with brain injury. She has provided education regarding traumatic brain injury to organizations such as the Phoenix and Mesa Police departments, National Guard Medical Command, court system, vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Bushnell serves as a member of the Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries and has served as the treasurer/secretary for APA Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service. Dr. Bushnell is currently working on a study researching the TBI clinic. She is also the Director of Clinical Training for the Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship.

RHONDA S. CASILLAS, Ph.D.
Arizona State University, 2010
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Women Veteran's Program)

Dr. Casillas is the lead psychologist in the Women Veteran's Program. Dr. Casillas completed her internship at Denver Health Medical Center (DHMC) and completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU). At GHSU Dr. Casillas specialized in behavioral medicine consultation services in HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, eating disorders, bariatric, memory and oncology clinics. Before joining the VA, Dr. Casillas provided psychology and community outreach services at Arizona State University Counseling and Consultation Services and was adjunct faculty for ASU Department of Behavioral Health. Her primary interests are women's health, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, caregiver's stress, geriatrics psychology, cross-cultural assessments, chronic pain, sleep disorders, depression, adjustment and anxiety disorders.

JOHN CHARLESON, Ph.D.
Seattle Pacific University, 2020
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Charleson is a licensed clinical psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team at the Phoenix VA. He completed his psychology training at Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, Washington and completed his pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship specializing in PTSD treatment at the Phoenix VAMC. His clinical interests are centered on working with Veteran's and their family system to address the impact of trauma. To that end, Dr. Charleson enjoys working with Veteran's with borderline personality disorder, working with Veteran's with posttraumatic stress disorder,

and providing couples therapy to assist Veterans and their significant others in navigating and ameliorating the impact traumatic stress has had on their relationship. Dr. Charleson provides several evidence-based psychotherapies including: CPT, PE, CBCT, WET, DBT, and IRT. Dr. Charleson's primary research interest involves examining predictors of Posttraumatic Growth in active duty and Veteran military populations.

MIA DE LA ROSA-TRUJILLO, Ph.D.
Loma Linda University, 2008
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona and California
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. De La Rosa completed her graduate work at Loma Linda University, internship at Ann Arbor VA and postdoctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2012, Dr. De La Rosa worked in California in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment. Dr. De La Rosa's primary clinical interest is in neuropsychological conditions in the geriatric population including differential diagnosis of dementia. She also has interests in other conditions including head injury, MS, CVAs, and other conditions affecting cognition. She conducts outpatient neuropsychological assessment with Veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics.

REBECCA T. DE LOS SANTOS, Ph.D.
California School of Professional Psychology, 2019
Licensed Psychologist in Michigan
(Inpatient Mental Health)

Dr. De Los Santos is clinical psychologist on the inpatient mental health units. She completed a doctoral internship at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center, where she later worked as a staff psychologist on the inpatient mental health unit after completing her doctorate. Her clinical area of interest is serious mental illness, specifically schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, and her theoretical orientation is primarily third wave cognitive behavioral. She has experience working with individuals with a wide range of diagnoses at varying levels of care, including outpatient, short- and long-term residential, and inpatient. On the inpatient unit, Dr. De Los Santos facilitates group psychoeducation and psychotherapies, while also offering individual supportive therapy services as needed. She has certifications in Motivational Interviewing and CBT for Substance Use Disorders, and training in DBT and SST.

VANJA DJURDJEVIC, PSY.D.
Arizona School of Professional Psychology, 2016
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PC-MHI)

Dr. Djurdjevic is a clinical psychologist working in the PC-MHI department at the NW CBOC location in Surprise, AZ. She completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship at a community mental health clinic serving the Phoenix Valley. Dr. Djurdjevic has experience supervising interns and post-doctoral residents. In her clinical role, Dr. Djurdjevic utilizes evidenced based protocols including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Dr. Djurdjevic's primary roles include assessment and treatment of Veterans within the primary care context.

SHARONA FELD, Psy.D.
Midwestern University, 2022
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Feld is a licensed clinical psychologist delivering individual and group therapy as part of the PTSD Clinical Team at the Phoenix VA. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona. She completed her predoctoral internship at Southwest Behavioral and Health Services and participated in a one-year Postdoctoral Fellowship with rotations in GMH and PTSD at the Phoenix VAMC. Her clinical interests include EBPs for PTSD and cognitive behavioral therapy. Dr. Feld provides a wide range of evidence-based psychotherapies including CPT, PE, WET, EMDR, STAIR, and CBT-I. She is also involved with PCT research as a study therapist.

LEANNE FIERSTEIN, Ph.D.
California School of Professional Psychology, 2006
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Outpatient Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Fierstein works in the General Mental Health Clinic (Jade/Opal). Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic, utilizing interventions from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She specializes in using Evidence-Based Practice to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, and Borderline Personality Disorder, in both individual and group formats. Dr. Fierstein has previously worked at Arizona State University, in the Counseling Center, and has experience supervising interns and post-doctoral residents. Dr. Fierstein also has extensive experience in treating PTSD with survivors of sexual assault/abuse and domestic violence in a community mental health program.

J. CAROLINE FORCE, Ph.D.
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, 2024
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Force is a clinical psychologist working the general mental health at the at the 32nd Street Clinic location. She completed internship at the American Lake VA in Tacoma, WA and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA in the health psychology track. Dr. Force operates from a biopsychosocial model in terms of therapy and assessment. Therapeutically, she implements both Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) based on Veteran preference, often with Motivational Interviewing and Self-Compassion elements.

ZACHARY FORCE, Ph.D.
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, 2024
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Force is a clinical psychologist working the general mental health at the at the 32nd Street Clinic location. Dr. Force completed internship at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Tacoma, Washington and postdoctoral training at the Phoenix VA in the health psychology track. Dr. Force

utilizes a multicultural and patient-centered care lens to provide evidence-based treatment including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Motivational Interviewing. Dr. Force's primary roles include assessment and treatment of a wide-range of disorders. Dr. Force values interdisciplinary teamwork and strives to support trainee growth through clear case conceptualization, flexibility in treatment delivery, and professional development.

ELISABETH HARFMANN, Ph.D.
University of Kansas, 2017
Licensed Psychologist in Wisconsin
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Harfmann received her doctorate from the University of Kansas in clinical psychology and completed her internship at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Illinois. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with collaborative fellowship training at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Harfmann's clinical interests include assessment of dementia, movement disorders, and acquired brain injuries. In addition to conducting outpatient neuropsychological assessment, Dr. Harfmann has been involved in the development of the Phoenix VA Post-Stroke Multidisciplinary Clinic. She is also involved in numerous research projects and her interests relate to traumatic brain injury, stroke, and the intersection between mood disorders and cognitive functioning.

JESSICA HARTMAN, Ph.D.
Arizona State University, 2021
Licensed Psychologist in Kansas
(Chronic Pain Wellness Center; Health/Pain Psychology)

Dr. Hartman is a Pain Psychologist within the interdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). She graduated from Arizona State University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral program and completed her clinical internship at the Phoenix VA with a focus on Health Psychology and Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). Following internship, Dr. Hartman worked as a staff psychologist in PCMH providing same-day warm hand-offs to triage clinical needs, safety assessments, along with individual and group psychotherapy utilizing a variety of modalities. Currently she works as staff Pain Psychologist on a highly integrated, transdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center. Dr. Hartman's clinical areas of interest include chronic pain management, women's wellness, decreasing risky substance use behaviors, improving sleep, and integrated healthcare. Her theoretical orientation is rooted in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Dr. Hartman has also received specialized training in CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Empowered Relief for Chronic Pain, and CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I). She provides interventions focused on the optimization of Veteran's rehabilitative pain management toolkit in individual, group, and co-disciplinary contexts.

MATTHEW W. HENNINGER, Ph.D., HSP
 University at Buffalo, 2023
 Licensed Psychologist in California
 Credentialed Health Service Psychologist
 (PTSD Clinical Team – Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Henninger is a licensed clinical psychologist with the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) based at the Mesa VA Clinic (the satellite office to the Southeast CBOC). He received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University at Buffalo following the completion of his predoctoral internship at VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System/Yale School of Medicine prior to joining the Phoenix VA. His theoretical orientation is informed by humanistic, existential, psychodynamic, and cognitive-behavioral frameworks. With the PCT, he provides the following trauma-focused, evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD and other trauma-related disorders: Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Written Exposure Therapy (WET), Prolonged Exposure (PE), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). He has a particular interest with integrating evidence-based mindfulness and body-awareness interventions, such as Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC), and Internal Family Systems (IFS), into trauma treatment. He also holds a specialized provider credential in women's reproductive mental health. Dr. Henninger is actively involved in research and has published in the areas of mindfulness, substance use, intimate partner violence, and trauma recovery. He continues to be engaged in training and education as a Lecturer for master's and doctoral level students at the University at Buffalo, as an Adjunct Faculty member within Arizona State University's Clinical Psychology PhD Program, and is a member of the PVAHCS Intimate Partner Violence and Psychology Training Committees.

DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.
 West Virginia University, 2005
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (General Mental Health – Southeast CBOC; Section Chief for CBOCs)

Dr. Hernandez provides individual psychotherapy as part of the General Mental Health team at the Southeast CBOC, located in Gilbert, AZ. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral, with a focus on empirically validated treatments. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Hernandez is a Section Chief for CBOCs, a consultant and trainer for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure training initiative and serves as the local Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator for the facility. Apart from her work in General Mental Health, Dr. Hernandez worked on the PTSD Clinical Team for several years and her first staff position with Phoenix VA was on the HBPC team. Prior to working for the VA, Dr. Hernandez had a breadth of clinical experiences, which included pre-employment psychological assessment, critical stress debriefing, and psychotherapy for local law enforcement agencies as well as inpatient and residential psychological services and behavior planning for individuals with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities. She also previously worked as an adjunct faculty member with Mesa Community College and taught classes in Introduction to Psychology and Abnormal Psychology.

CARL ISENHART Psy.D., ABPP
 University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1984
 Licensed Psychologist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois
 (Motivational Interviewing Consultant)

Dr. Isenhardt served as a Staff Psychologist at the Phoenix VAMC between 2015 and 2020, and now serves as the Motivational Interviewing Trainer and Consultant to the Psychology Training Programs. In addition to a client-centered approach in working with clients, he has specific training in Motivational Interviewing, Rational-Emotive Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, and Cognitive-Behavior therapy. He has held clinical, supervisory, and managerial positions at the VAMCs in Danville, IL, and Minneapolis, MN. He has also conducted and published research in the areas of Motivational Interviewing and substance abuse assessment and treatment. He was a clinical assistant professor in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He holds Specialty Board Certification in Clinical Psychology, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology, has a Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers.

NAUDIA JAKUBOWSKI, Psy.D.
Alliant International University, CSPP, San Francisco, 2020
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(General Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Jakubowski is a Clinical Psychologist in the General Mental Health Clinic. She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and SMI in individual and group formats. Her primary interests are in race-based stress and resiliency, cultural diversity, awareness, and inclusion, healing through self-compassion, and helping others develop a life worth living through evidence-based treatments. Prior to becoming a psychologist at the Phoenix VAMC, Dr. Jakubowski has completed training in a variety of community and hospital-based settings, including assessment clinics, residential, and IOP/Outpatient clinics at Kaiser Permanente. She completed her internship at Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek with rotations in addiction medicine, cognitive processing therapy, eating disorders, and IOP. Dr. Jakubowski's treatment approach is focused through a humanistic lens coupled with CBT, ACT, MI, DBT, IPT, and mindfulness. She currently conducts individual and group therapy, completes intakes, and works as an adjunct therapist in the DBT program. She provides training and administrative support as a Mental Health Suite Treatment Planning Champion, to help maintain procedures and compliance standards for multidisciplinary treatment planning.

BRYCE JUPINKO, Psy.D.
Argosy University/Orange County, 2015
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Jupinko is currently working within the PTSD Clinic. Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic and incorporates concepts from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. She has evidenced based training in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. She completed her internship at the Spokane/Walla Walla VA in general mental health. She also worked as a forensic evaluator for a community psychiatric hospital and completed fitness to parent evaluations for clients involved with the DCS system. Prior to pursuing a degree in psychology, Dr. Jupinko worked as a social

worker in the emergency department and as a therapist at several residential substance abuse treatment programs.

KRIS KRATZ, Ph.D., ABPP (CL/CN)
Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, 2000
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Associate Chief of Staff – Mental Health Department)

Dr. Kratz is one of the staff neuropsychologists. He is board certified in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology, a practice sample reviewer for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, and a mentor for the American Board of Clinical Psychology. In addition to his role for the Phoenix VA, Dr. Kratz has 15 years of experience as an Army officer (10 active duty, 5 in National Guard and Reserves). He has served in various military roles, to include psychologist, neuropsychologist, and as a unit commander. He has six combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and practices CBT when functioning in his role as a military psychologist. Clinical neuropsychology interests include traumatic brain injury, baseline and clinical evaluations for those in high risk occupations (i.e. aviation, special operations), dementia, neuroimaging analysis utilizing FreeSurfer, industrial/organizational psychology, and moral injury.

KATE HAPPEL KRAUTBAUER, PhD
Eastern Michigan University, 2022
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Health Psychology)

Dr. Krautbauer is a member of the Health Psychology team with a primary focus on eating disorders. She completed her predoctoral internship in the health psychology track at the Phoenix VA and subsequently transitioned into a staff role. Dr. Krautbauer has training in third-wave behavior therapies including CBT, DBT, and ACT. In her current role, Dr. Krautbauer provides evidence-based treatment for eating disorders such as Cognitive Behavior Therapy – Enhanced and Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Binge Eating/Bulimia, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for poor body image; and Cognitive Behavior Therapy to address multiple sclerosis, psychogenic non-epileptic seizures, IBS, tic disorders, insomnia, diabetes, cancer, migraines, tinnitus, and sexual health concerns.

JENNIFER LERCH, Psy.D.
Loma Linda University, 2024
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(General Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Lerch is a clinical psychologist working in the General Mental Health Clinic at the 32nd Street Clinic location. She completed her doctoral internship at Loma Linda University's Intensive Outpatient Program where she facilitated Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups. Dr. Lerch completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Phoenix VA's General Mental Health clinic. Dr. Lerch completed specialized training at the UCLA OCD Intensive Outpatient Program, where she provided Exposure and Response Prevention (ERP) therapy for individuals with moderate to severe OCD. In her clinical work, Dr. Lerch utilizes a cognitive behavioral framework while integrating evidence-based treatments tailored to individual patient needs. Her areas of specialization include OCD,

anxiety disorders, trauma-related conditions, and mood disorders. Dr. Lerch has training in several evidence-based psychotherapies, including Exposure and Response Prevention (ERP), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), and Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT). In addition to individual psychotherapy, she also provides group therapy focused on ACT-based interventions for anxiety. She works collaboratively within an interdisciplinary treatment team alongside psychiatry, nursing, and social work to support comprehensive outpatient mental health care.

KYLE LOWREY, Psy.D.
California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego 2014
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Lowrey is a Clinical Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). He also completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA in the general mental health and PTSD clinics. Prior to his work as a staff psychologist, Dr. Lowrey completed an internship at the Cleveland VA and worked as a research associate at the San Diego VA's Veterans Medical Research Foundation (VMRF). Research experiences have afforded Dr. Lowrey the opportunity to conduct pre- and post-deployment assessments to OEF/OIF/OND, active-duty Marines on base at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms as well as structured psychodiagnostic interviews (e.g., CAPS, SCID) and neuropsychological assessment batteries to veterans from various service eras. His main interests are in evidence-based treatments of serious mental illness (e.g., PTSD), substance abuse, and other trauma-related issues. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, with a focus on empirically supported practices. Dr. Lowrey is a member of the PTSD Telemental Health team, providing mental health treatment via telehealth to veterans located in community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and homes across Arizona. In addition, he has served as a local trainer for Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), an evidence-based treatment for PTSD, and has co-led the annual training workshop at the Phoenix VA.

BRANDI L. LUEDTKE, Psy.D., HSPP
University of Indianapolis, 2010
Licensed Psychologist in Indiana
(PTSD Clinical Team – Program Manager)

Dr. Luedtke is a Clinical Psychologist and the Program Manager in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). Her main interests are in complex mental illness, particularly PTSD, and in the integration of third-wave behavior therapies, such as Mindfulness-based interventions, into evidence-based psychotherapies. Following internship at the Cincinnati VA and prior to coming to the Phoenix VA in 2015, she served as Project Director/Co-Investigator of a VA-grant funded study entitled, "Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD and Relationship Function" in which she assisted in the development and implementation of a randomized control trial of a mindfulness-based cognitive behavioral couples therapy intervention for OEF/OIF/OND veterans and their intimate partners at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN. She has published in the areas of trauma, neuroscience and metacognition in individuals with schizophrenia. Dr. Luedtke also serves as a National Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD Trainer for the VA Office of Mental Health Family Services and is a consultant for

the University of Texas-Austin and Chris Kyle Frog Foundation designing curriculum weekend retreats and programming for military Veterans and spouses.

LINDSAY MANWAY, Psy.D.
Nova Southeastern University, 2016
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Home-Based Primary Care)
(Psychological Assessment Clinic)

Dr. Manway is the Section Chief for Neuropsychology and Wellness, which includes Neuropsychology, Medical Psychology, Pain Psychology, and Home-Based Primary Care Psychology. She also works with veterans in the Home-Based Primary Care program, which provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary, in-home care for veterans who have complex health care needs. She completed her internship and postdoctoral training at the Cleveland VAMC with an emphasis in Geropsychology. Some of her specialized interests in this area include dementia assessment, behavior management for dementia, staff training and education, and caregiver support. Dr. Manway also assists with the Psychological Assessment Clinic, including case assignment and supervision.

JEFFREY MINTERT, Ph.D.
Arizona State University, 2020
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Chronic Pain Wellness Center; Health/Pain Psychology)

Dr. Mintert is a Pain Psychologist with the interdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). He graduated from Arizona State University's Counseling Psychology doctoral program. Dr. Mintert completed both his internship and fellowship at the Phoenix VA with a focus on Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) and Health Psychology. His clinical areas of interest include pain management, sleep, and integrated healthcare. He primarily draws from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Dr. Mintert has also received specific training in CBT for chronic pain (CBT-CP). He delivers pain psychology interventions as part of psychosocial rehabilitation groups for individuals living with chronic pain, provides individual pain psychology services, and participates in CoDisciplinary appointments with medical colleagues.

MICHAEL MOORE, Ph.D.
The University of Southern Mississippi, 2011
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PTSD– Southeast CBOC – CPT Regional Trainer)

Dr. Moore works for the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team and is located in the Midtown Clinic. He completed his psychology Internship at the Memphis, Tennessee VA, and a postdoctoral Fellowship in PTSD and trauma related mental health disorders at the Tucson, Arizona VA. Dr. Moore specializes in using Evidence-Based Practices to treat trauma related disorders. He is a Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) Regional Trainer for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Moore has obtained provider status through the Department of Veterans Affairs in CPT, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD). He has also been trained in, and utilizes Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Dialectical

Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in his work with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA staff Dr. Moore worked as the Military Sexual Trauma (MST) program coordinator, and as a member of the PCT for the Tucson, Arizona, VA Health Care System.

JOSEPH MORGER, PSY.D.
Xavier University, 2018
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona and Washington
(General Mental Health)

Dr. Morger is a Clinical Psychologist working as part of a Behavioral health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) Team in General Mental Health, as well as a member of the Dialectical Behavior Therapy team. Dr. Morger received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio after completing his internship at Southern Illinois University's Counseling and Psychological Service Center in Carbondale, Illinois. His main clinical interests are in emotion dysregulation and applying third-wave behavior therapies such as ACT and DBT to a variety of client populations. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA, Dr. Morger worked as a postdoctoral fellow and then licensed psychologist at Cadence CHAT in Kirkland, WA, where he received extensive training in providing Dialectical Behavior Therapy to individuals and their families.

CHRISTOPHER OGLE, PSY.D.
Pepperdine University, 2013
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(General Mental Health; Section Chief)

Dr. Ogle is a general mental health psychologist located at the Southeast CBOC. He completed his degree at Pepperdine University, his internship at the North Chicago VA/Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, and his post-doctoral fellowship at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System in Honolulu, HI. During residency, he specialized in outpatient and inpatient PTSD treatment and worked closely with the National Center for PTSD. He has completed training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure, and has certified provider status as a CPT provider. Clinical responsibilities include individual psychotherapy and assessment with a variety of clinical presentations. Additionally, Dr. Ogle has started and maintained a mindfulness group and an anger management group at the SE CBOC. Regarding theoretical orientation, he has a background in existential and cognitive-behavioral approaches, though he tends to adhere to cognitive-behavioral approaches.

JOELLE OIZUMI, Ph.D.
University of North Texas, 1996
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Psychology Service Executive)

Dr. Oizumi currently functions as the Psychology Service Executive. She primarily provides individual psychotherapy for various mental health issues on an outpatient basis. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal. She provides psychotherapy to mental health and Health Psychology patients. She conducts psychological evaluations for diagnostic and treatment purposes. Her primary clinical interest is in working with veterans with warzone-related PTSD and depression. Dr. Oizumi is an adjunct faculty member at Rio Salado and Everest Colleges. She has previously conducted disability evaluations at the VA and in the private sector. She has

conducted fitness to parent evaluations for Child Protective Services. She worked in correctional psychology prior to coming to the VA in 1997.

BRENDT PARRISH, Ph.D.
University of Delaware, 2014
Licensed Psychologist in California and Kansas
(PC-MHI)

Dr. Parrish is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). After completing his internship at the Orlando VA, Dr. Parrish completed a one-year fellowship in PC-MHI at the Milwaukee VA. Dr. Parrish has training and experience in a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies including CBT for depression and anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). His interests include integrated care models, measurement-based care, sleep disorders, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, and chronic pain. Dr. Parrish is the VISN 22 PC-MHI training lead and national Problem-Solving Training trainer.

ALEXANDRA PLEASANT, Psy.D.
Arizona School of Professional Psychology, 2016
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
Women's Health Psychology Program

Dr. Pleasant is currently working as a clinical psychologist with Women's Health Psychology Program at the Phoenix VAMC. Dr. Pleasant previously worked within the Chronic Pain Wellness Center working within an interdisciplinary team and providing codisciplinary intakes/follow-up, individual psychotherapy, and group therapy for Veterans experiencing chronic pain. Prior to this, Dr. Pleasant worked within the General Mental Health Clinic at the Phoenix VAMC providing individual therapy, intakes/assessments, walk-in clinic triage, and group therapy from a variety of modalities including, DBT, CPT, ACT, IPT, CBT, MI, etc. Prior to becoming a psychologist at the Phoenix VAMC, Dr. Pleasant completed training in a variety of VA and community settings, including residential treatment, sub-acute medical facilities, hospice care, disability assessments, primary care mental health integration, PTSD-specialty clinics, and private practice. She completed her internship at the West Palm Beach VAMC in the interdisciplinary training track and fellowship at the Phoenix VAMC in the Chronic Pain Wellness Center. Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic and incorporates concepts from CBT, ACT, and DBT. She also has specific VA evidence-based training in CPT, CBT-CP, DBT, IPT-D, ACT-D, HRV Biofeedback, ROSE, and CBT-HA. Dr. Pleasant is also a IHCC Whole Health Biofeedback Training Champion/mentor and provides mentorship to behavioral health professionals who are completing HRV Biofeedback training (HeartMath/Thought Technology), as well as leading the Biofeedback/Neurofeedback Community of Practice call. Additionally, Dr. Pleasant is completing a QI project related to the Phoenix VAMC DBT program. In terms of the training committee, Dr. Pleasant provides supervision, as well as manages didactic scheduling and psychological assessment consults. Her main interests are interprofessional/interdisciplinary team work, administrative issues within the VA, the intersections between mental and physical health, maternal mental health, DBT, and mindfulness.

DONNA PRICE, Psy.D.
 Spalding University, 2015
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Price works as part of a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) Team in the outpatient general mental health clinic where she provides group and individual evidence-based psychotherapy to treat a wide range of clinical presentations. She earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology (health psychology focus) at Spalding University in Kentucky. She then completed her Internship at the Medical College of Georgia and the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, where she was part of the inaugural team at the Equality Clinic, a multidisciplinary primary care clinic focusing on the provision of health care for underserved LGBTQ+ individuals. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Phoenix VA Health Care System in general mental health. Dr Price is a WPATH certified provider and also earned provider status in Cognitive Processing Therapy and Interpersonal Psychotherapy. She works from a primarily CBT-based framework, believes in a wholistic approach to wellness, and enjoys collaboration across disciplines to aid in treatment that support clients' goals. She provides clinical supervision to Psychology Interns and Residents and is an instructor in the Intern Complex Case Conceptualization seminar.

DARRELL RICE, Ph.D.
 Loma Linda University, 2021
 Licensed Psychologist in Virginia
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Rice is a psychologist and team co-lead in the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) service line at the 32nd Street Outpatient Clinic. He earned his doctorate degree from Loma Linda University with an emphasis in primary care and health psychology. Dr. Rice completed his pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at Phoenix VA where he focused on PC-MHI, health psychology, and integrated/interdisciplinary chronic pain care. His theoretical orientation is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and has training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Problem Solving Training for Integrated Care (PST-IC), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). In addition to integrated care and interdisciplinary teamwork, Dr. Rice has a clinical interest in treating older adults and consults/huddles with the 32nd Street Geriatrics Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT).

ASH SENTER, Psy.D.
 Adler University, Chicago, 2020
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Senter is a Psychologist in Primary Care - Mental Health Integration and Veteran Care Coordinator (VCC) for Phoenix VA. They earned their doctorate degree from Adler University in Chicago, IL with an emphasis in military clinical psychology. They completed their pre-doctoral internship at Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center and post-doctoral training at Phoenix VA. Their dissertation focused on rates of Military Sexual Trauma among LGBTQ+ Veterans. They provide brief evidence-based psychotherapy within PC-MHI including mindfulness, ACT, MI, and CBT-I. As VCC, Dr. Senter is a primary point of contact for Veterans at Phoenix VA. Their clinical

interests include brief interventions for sleep issues, behavioral medicine, medical psychology, and program development.

GEOFFREY STREETER, Psy.D.
Midwestern University, Glendale, 2019
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PC-MHI)

Dr. Streeter provides individual and group psychotherapy in the general mental health setting. He completed his doctoral training in clinical psychology with an emphasis on health psychology at Midwestern University, Glendale. He completed his doctoral internship at Providence Family Medicine Center and postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA Medical Center within the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) track. Dr. Streeter's theoretical orientation is CBT and he also has experience with the following evidence-based treatments, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Eating Disorders (CBT-E), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). His primary interests are health psychology, interdisciplinary teamwork, positive psychology, performance/sport psychology, the mind-body connection and mindfulness/relaxation training.

KIMBERLY SULLIVAN, Psy.D.
Argosy University - Phoenix, 2011
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(PC-MHI)

Dr. Sullivan earned a M.A. in Forensic Psychology from the University of Denver and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University. She completed a doctoral internship at Napa State Hospital and post-doctoral fellowship at Harbor UCLA Medical Center where she focused on correctional/forensic psychology and assertive community therapy/rehabilitation. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA, Dr. Sullivan worked as a Drug Abuse Program Coordinator at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix and served as the Mental Health Expert on the Bureau of Prisons local Crisis Negotiation Team. Dr. Sullivan currently works at the SE CBOC in the area of Primary Care -Mental Health Integration.

ERIN TRUONG, Ph.D.
The Ohio State University, 2016
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
(Director of Interprofessional Education; Health Psychology Team)

Dr. Truong is the Director of Interprofessional Education within the Department of Education and a member of the Health Psychology team. She completed her internship at VA Central Iowa Health Care System and her fellowship at Phoenix VA Health Care System before being hired as a staff psychologist in PCMHI in 2017. Dr. Truong provides time-limited, evidence-based psychotherapy for Veterans with a variety of health concerns as well as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavior Therapy for disordered eating behaviors. She also serves as the psychologist for the Diabetes Education Program. Dr. Truong has provider status in Cognitive Processing Therapy and has training and experience in cognitive-behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing.

JESSICA S WERTZ, Psy.D.
 Loma Linda University, 2012
 Licensed Psychologist in Illinois
 (Assistant Training Director, GMH- Section Head)

Dr. Wertz is a Clinical Psychologist who serves as the Assistant Training Director for the Residency, Internship and Practicum Programs. Additionally, she is a Section Head in the General Mental Health clinic. She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat PTSD in individual and group formats. She is certified in CPT, EMDR, CBT for Insomnia, Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression and Social Skills Training for Schizophrenia. Her primary interests are in Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders, especially childhood and attachment traumas. Another one of Dr. Wertz's interests is in supervision and leadership development. She has won several preceptor/instructor and excellence in training awards. She is also an APA Internship and Post-doctoral Accreditation Site Visitor.

ADRIANA TARAZÓN WEYER, Ph.D.
 Arizona State University, 2003
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (Chair of the Workplace Violence Prevention Program)

Dr. Weyer serves as the Chair for the medical center's Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC) and Employee Threat Assessment Team (ETAT). She conducts evidence based risk assessments, using a combination of clinical and actuarial methods to identify violence risk and develop risk mitigation strategies. Both the DBC and ETAT consist of multidisciplinary staff throughout the medical center trained in the risk assessment process.

MATTHEW WEYER, Ph.D.
 Arizona State University, 1997
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona
 (Health Psychology, PC-MHI; Training Director)

Dr. Weyer is the Training Director of the Psychology Internship and Clinical Residency Programs. He has completed evidence-based training in Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). His clinical interests include intervention and treatment of medical patients. Clinical responsibilities include assessment, individual psychotherapy, and psycho-educational groups. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with a cognitive-behavioral emphasis. He sub-specializes in clinical hypnosis and EMDR and depending on trainee interest, leads the Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar self-study group for the psychology trainees.

KRISTA WILD, Ph.D.
Georgia State University, 2007
Licensed Psychologist in California
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Wild completed her graduate work at Georgia State University, her internship at University of Arizona Department of Psychiatry, and her postdoctoral fellowship at University of New Mexico Hospital Center for Neuropsychological Services. Prior to joining the staff at the Phoenix VA in 2013, Dr. Wild worked in a maximum security forensic mental health setting conducting neuropsychological and trial competency evaluations. Dr. Wild's primary clinical interests include assessment of symptom and performance validity, differential diagnosis of dementia, TBI, stroke, metabolic disorder, adults with developmental disability, and other conditions affecting cognition. Dr. Wild accepts referrals from various departments, including Compensation & Pension, Neurology, Psychiatry, Primary Care, and various specialty clinics.

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data
Date Program Tables are updated: 7/1/2026

Program Disclosures	
Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution's affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
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:	
Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our program: 1) United States citizenship; 2) Verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration); 3) Enrollment in an APA, CPA or PCSAS accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology; 4) Comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship; 5) Dissertation proposal approved. In addition to these requirements, we also have an expectation of a minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience, and clinical experiences with adults in a variety of settings is strongly encouraged. The most competitive applicants will have completed a minimum of two practicum experiences prior to internship year. Selection Process A selection committee composed of psychologists involved in training reviews applications. We seek applicants who have a sound clinical and scientific knowledge base from their academic program, strong basic skills in assessment, intervention, and research techniques, and the personal characteristics necessary to function well in our internship setting. Our selection criteria are based on a "goodness-	

of-fit" with our scholar-practitioner model, and we look for interns whose training goals match the training that we offer.		
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 Intervention Hours	Yes, Amount = 250	
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	Yes, Amount = 50	
Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:		
The program does not have additional screening criteria.		
Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*		
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	36,338	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	NA	
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	Yes	
If access to medical insurance is provided:		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes	
Coverage of domestic partner available?	Yes	
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104	
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	
Other Benefits (please describe): *Depending on facility budget, there is a possibility of up to \$1000 stipend per intern to be used for local or virtual training/conferences.	\$1000*	
Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table		
Initial Post-Internship Positions (Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)		
	2022-2025	
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	0	
Academic teaching	PD=6	EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=2	EP=0
Consortium	PD=0	EP=0
University Counseling Center	PD=0	EP=0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=3	EP=0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=6	EP=6

Psychiatric facility	PD=0	EP=0
Correctional facility	PD=0	EP=0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0	EP=0
School district/system	PD=0	EP=0
Independent practice setting	PD=1	EP=0
Other	PD=0	EP=0
Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.		

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and options provided. The VA Training Director for your profession will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment:

1. **U.S. Citizenship.** HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.
2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below. Of note, this drug screening includes cannabis, with application of federal law (not state law) regarding drug policies (it is important to read the following document for more information [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veterans Health Administration Health Professions Trainees](#)).

6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships). Post-degree programs typically will not have an affiliation agreement, as the HPT is no longer enrolled in an academic program and the program is VA sponsored.
7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>
 - a. **Health Requirements.** Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine as well as annual influenza vaccine. *Declinations are EXTREMELY rare.* If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
 - b. **Primary source verification of all prior education and training** is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.
8. **Additional On-boarding Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.
9. **Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: <https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf>

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for appointment as a psychology HPT can be found at the end of this brochure.

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements (with hyperlinks)

- Trainees receive term employee appointments and must meet eligibility requirements for appointment as outlined in VA Handbook 5005 Staffing, Part II, Section B. Appointment

Requirements and Determinations.

https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=646&FType=2

- Selective Service website where the requirements, benefits and penalties of registering vs. not registering are outlined: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties>

Additional information specific suitability information from Title 5 (referenced in VHA

Handbook 5005 – hyperlinks included): *Specific factors.* In determining whether a person is suitable for Federal employment, only the following factors will be considered a basis for finding a person unsuitable and taking a suitability action:

1. Misconduct or negligence in employment;
2. Criminal or dishonest conduct;
3. Material, intentional false statement, or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
4. Refusal to furnish testimony as required by § 5.4 of this chapter;
5. Alcohol abuse, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation, of a nature and duration that suggests that the applicant or appointee would be prevented from performing the duties of the position in question, or would constitute a direct threat to the property or safety of the applicant or appointee or others;
6. Illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances without evidence of substantial rehabilitation;
7. Knowing and willful engagement in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force; and
8. Any statutory or regulatory bar which prevents the lawful employment of the person involved in the position in question.

Additional considerations. OPM and agencies must consider any of the following additional considerations to the extent OPM or the relevant agency, in its sole discretion, deems any of them pertinent to the individual case:

1. The nature of the position for which the person is applying or in which the person is employed;
2. The nature and seriousness of the conduct;
3. The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
4. The recency of the conduct;
5. The age of the person involved at the time of the conduct;
6. Contributing societal conditions; and
7. The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.

Additional information on VA eligibility: <https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>