



Without Compensation (WOC) Training experiences for psychology students in Doctoral, Masters, and Undergraduate programs

VA Connecticut Healthcare System

Psychology Service – 116B

<http://www.connecticut.va.gov/>

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Am I Eligible? Checklist for VA HPTs

Applicants for any Without Compensation (WOC) appointment must meet ALL the criteria in the linked checklist. Primary items are emphasized below:

1. U.S. citizenship is required for all paid trainees. WOC appointments for non-US citizens are technically possible, but infrequently available.
2. Federal law requires that most males living in the US between the ages of 18 and 26 register with the Selective Service System (SSS)
3. Trainees are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.
4. As a condition of appointment, HPTs must furnish evidence of satisfactory physical condition based on a physical examination in the past 12 months; have up-to-date vaccinations for healthcare workers as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

STUDENTS FROM DOCTORAL LEVEL PROGRAMS

Trainees must be enrolled in a doctoral program that is APA, CPA, or PCSAS accredited. The specialty area of the degree must be consistent with VA Qualification Standards (e.g., programs in Clinical, Counseling, Psychological Clinical Science, or Combined Psychology).

STUDENTS FROM MASTERS LEVEL PROGRAMS

Trainees from appropriately accredited masters level programs that are consistent with the VA Qualification Standards (i.e., clinical or counseling psychology) can be considered for practicum placement within the Psychology Service. Other training programs cannot be considered, as primary clinical supervision is required to be

discipline-specific (i.e., psychologists cannot supervise students training as social workers, licensed professional mental health counselors (LPMHC) or as marriage and family therapists (MFTs), and so forth. Please contact the specific service for potential training experiences (e.g., social work).

STUDENTS FROM UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

VA guidance does not allow us to train or work with undergraduate students, in a clinical capacity, within the Psychology Service. Potential opportunities may be considered within the Research Service.

Practicum Opportunities:

A. NEWINGTON CAMPUS:

Newington VA offers several practicum training opportunities depending on faculty availability and student interest. All training rotations are designed to provide high quality training in a variety of treatment approaches with a diverse Veteran population. Potential rotations include working in the substance use disorders clinic, as part of the posttraumatic treatment team, in clinical health psychology, and as part of the newly designed whole health program. Practicum students get exposure to wide range of clinical practices, including completing intake assessments, designing treatment plans, providing ongoing short term or long-term individual psychotherapy, and facilitating focused group treatment.

Supervisors have a wide range of theoretical orientations and clinical backgrounds, including Cognitive-Behavioral therapy, Psychodynamic therapy, Internal Family Systems, and third wave CBT approaches including mindfulness and meditation. In addition, there are opportunities for supervised evidence-based practice including CBT for SUD, CPT, PE and CBT for Chronic Pain. Practicum students participate in individual and group supervision and typically commit to 12-20 practicum hours. The training years begins in September. Between 3-5 practicum students are typically accepted each year. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter identifying clinical interests, and a CV to Dr. Kate Marinchak at Kathryne.marinchak@va.gov and Dr. Heather Cochran at Heather.Cochran@va.gov **Applications are due by 1/31/2022.**

B. ORANGE CAMPUS: Telemental Health

The VA is leading efforts nationwide to deliver high-quality, evidence-based telemental healthcare (TMH) via clinical video technology (CVT). This practicum is designed to provide best practice training in TMH and offers an opportunity for trainees to gain experience serving a diverse group of veterans living in rural communities. The rotation is designed to be flexible and can be tailored to specific

experiences and interests (e.g. short vs. longer-term treatment, structured vs. open-ended treatment, specific diagnoses or clinical presentations). All trainees will have opportunity to conduct intake assessments, design treatment plans, and provide supervised treatment via CVT within the context of the overarching goal of building clinical competencies and finding their own clinical style and voice.

Supervising psychologists for this practicum are leading experts in TMH offering best practices training in this increasingly popular modality of care. They have diverse clinical orientations and backgrounds with expertise in cognitive-behavioral, motivational interviewing, interpersonal/modern psychodynamic, intersectional feminist, and integrative approaches. Strategies to work in the TMH modality from a social justice, intersectional lens are emphasized. Supervisors are trained in and can offer supervision in a number of relational and evidence-based intervention approaches.

The training year typically begins in early September and concludes in May/June. Trainees will be expected to dedicate 12-20 hours per week, including at least one hour of individual supervision, and regular didactics and group supervision. Trainees are required to work on site and our telehealth hub is located at the Yale West Campus, 200 West Campus Avenue, Orange, CT 06477. Two to three practicum trainees are typically accepted.

Applications for Telemental Health are due between 12/1/2021 and 12/30/2021
To apply please send your cover letter and CV to:
Jessica Lawson, PhD
Jessica.lawson1@va.gov

C. WEST HAVEN CAMPUS: Clinical Neuropsychology

Clinical Neuropsychology (CNP): Trainees will work with a variety of individuals with wide ranging problems during the training year. Extensive experience in outpatient neuropsychological evaluation for diagnostics, treatment effects, and development of tailored recommendations is provided. Exposure to both standardized and process-oriented approaches to neuropsychological assessment is provided, though the primary clinical work utilizes a core battery comprised for utility with the disparate patient population served. There will be opportunities for writing and being involved in feedback, based on the level of competency demonstrated. Dr. Beauvais and Weisser serve as primary supervisors, and practicum students additionally work with neuropsychology fellows. The training year typically begins in September and concludes in April/May. Trainees will be expected to dedicate one day per week and are encouraged to take part if offered didactics and/or group supervision. Typically, one trainee per year is accepted. Trainees are required to work on site in West Haven. Applicants should have had either neuropsychology specific doctoral coursework or have had one prior practicum placement in this specialty area.

Applications for either CNP are due between 1/1/22 and 1/20/22.

To apply please send your cover letter and CV to:

John Beauvais, PhD.,

John.Beauvais@va.gov