



VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
150 South Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130

Dear Applicant:

Included with this letter are copies of the application form and descriptive brochure for the 2023-2024 Psychology Practicum Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System (VABHS). Qualifications include advanced standing in your program and a prior practicum experience. We accept applications from all local APA-approved doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology. **Please note, longstanding VABHS policy is to give placement preference, when appropriate, to qualified applicants from our academic affiliates (Boston University and Harvard University).**

I'd like to point out some important aspects of the application. Additional instructions are contained within the application form itself.

Notification Day – Monday, February 13, 2023

For non-affiliate applicants, we intend to abide by the recruiting recommendations of the MPA Practicum Training Collaborative (PTC). Thus, we will not make offers to non-affiliate applicants prior to the notification date of **Monday, February 13, 2023**. However, offers to affiliate applicants may be extended, in conjunction with agreements reached with their programs' respective DCTs, prior to the PTC notification day. If a rotation places with an affiliate applicant prior to the notification date, we will inform all other applicants of this fact.

Affiliate Applicants (Boston University and Harvard University)

Affiliate student applications will be accepted beginning on **Monday, November 28, 2022** with a final deadline of **Monday, January 9, 2023**. Interviews are conducted during December and January. We will conduct interviews with affiliate applicants according to the following guidelines:

- After interviewing affiliate applicants, we will begin making offers according to a rank ordering of those applicants. An applicant will have 48 hours to consider an offer.
- The core agreement is that an affiliate applicant can accept an early offer that is binding for both parties. If the applicant wants to explore other options, the applicant can continue to be considered for a position with us, however the applicant is now treated on an equal footing with non-affiliate applicants, meaning:
 - The applicant will be ranked without further consideration of affiliate status.
 - The applicant will not hear from us again until MPA PTC notification day.
- If the first affiliate applicant to whom we've made an offer does not accept the early offer, and if there is another affiliate applicant who meets our selection criteria, we will then make an offer to that applicant before notification day (and the parameters described under bullet point #2 will again apply to the second applicant).
- Any unfilled positions are offered on MPA PTC notification day.

- If a position is filled prior to notification day, we will publicize that the slot is now filled to all interested parties (i.e., all applicants and their DCTs).

Non-affiliate Applicants

Non-affiliate student applications will be accepted beginning on **Monday, December 5, 2022** with a final deadline of COB on **Monday, January 9, 2023**. Interviews are conducted during December and January. We ask that all applicants be in close communication with their DCTs about this process, and feel free to contact me if they have any questions or encounter any issues with participating in the Match.

Massachusetts Advanced Practicum

Please note that the VABHS practica experiences do not meet Massachusetts requirements as Advanced Practicum, and as a result will not qualify as clinical hours for Massachusetts psychology licensure. Please verify this information at the time of your interview.

Cover Letter

We require a cover letter as part of the application. In this letter, applicants should describe their interests and qualifications for rotation(s) in which they have a **strong or high interest (please indicate at least one rotation and no more than four rotations total, which should match the rankings on your application)**. We also ask that applicants list all graduate courses taken and/or anticipated to be completed by the time of entry into practicum training. We do this to help us efficiently screen applications and match students to appropriate training rotations.

Space Constraints

Finally, there are space constraints that exist at all of our training sites, but in particular at the Jamaica Plain Campus. Each rotation has assigned days for attendance that are required. Please pay close attention to the time commitments for each rotation and discuss any questions you might have with the relevant supervisor(s). The VABHS Practicum Program reserves the right to rescind an offer to an applicant who accepts a placement, then states after accepting that they cannot be at the VA for any portion of the days specified in the brochure.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached via email at Rebecca.Ametrano@va.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Ametrano, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
Health Behavior Coordinator
Training Director, Psychology Practicum Program
VA Boston Healthcare System

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Boston University School of Medicine