

Internship Admissions, Support, and Placement Data

Date Program Tables are updated: **8/16/2023**

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:	
We prefer candidates who have generalized assessment and psychotherapy training. Applicants who have VA practicum experience or who have an interest in a VA career are highly desirable. Although research experience is not a requirement, we value applicants with the ability to engage in scholarly inquiry and critical analysis of the scholarly literature. Given our focus on providing evidence based treatment to our Veterans, we value applicants who have training in evidence based treatment approaches. Further, given the diversity of the Veterans receiving treatment through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, we encourage applicants from graduate programs with a multicultural focus and experience with ethnic, cultural, and social minority groups. Our internship program values cultural and individual diversity and strongly encourages qualified applicants from all backgrounds to apply. We adhere to all EEO guidelines. The United States government is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, color, religion, handicap or national origin.	

<p>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:</p>	
<p>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours</p>	<p>Yes, Amount = 300</p>
<p>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</p>	<p>Yes, Amount = 50</p>
<p>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</p>	
<p>Internship applicants also must meet these criteria to be considered for any VA Psychology Internship Program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible. 2. Approved for internship status by graduate program training director. <p>VA Eligibility Criteria also require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. U.S. citizenship. VA is unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training. 4. 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. 5. 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. Waiver requests are rare and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Waiver determinates are made by the VA Office of Human Resources Management and can take six months for a verdict. 	

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| <p>6. 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.</p> <p>7. Drug Testing. Per Executive Order 12564 the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. Health Professional Trainees (HPTs) are exempt from drug-testing prior to appointment, however interns are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You are required to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice prior to receiving your formal offer of employment. Please note that VA will initiate termination of VA appointment and/or dismissal from VA against any trainee who is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test (even if a drug is legal in the state where training) or refuses to be drug tested. Health Profession Trainees will be given the opportunity to justify a positive test result by submitting supplemental medical documentation to a Medical Review Officer when a confirmed positive test could have resulted from legally prescribed medication.</p> <p>8. 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.</p> <p>9. TQCVL. To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA OAA requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). Following selection/match process and prior to the start of training, the VA Training Director will contact the Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) at affiliates for all selected/matched HPTs. Each DCT will be asked to complete the TQCVL and submit the document to the VA. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. This document requires that you confirm the following health information and required vaccines for healthcare workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Evidence or self-certification that you are physically and mentally fit to perform the essential functions of the training program➤ Evidence of tuberculosis screening and testing per CDC health care personnel guidelines➤ Evidence or self-certification of up-to-date vaccinations for healthcare workers as | |
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<p>recommended by the CDC and VA to include: Hepatitis B, MMR (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella), Varicella (Chickenpox), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis), Annual Flu vaccine, and <u>COVID-19 vaccination</u>.</p> <p>Additional Forms. Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.</p>	
<p>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</p>	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	34,535
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?	No
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): Maternity/Paternity leave is also available through use of sick leave, annual leave, and then Leave Without Pay (LWOP), with any LWOP hours to be made up at the end of the training year. In addition to the annual leave and sick leave, interns may be granted time away from the medical center for approved training activities and conferences, including one day for dissertation defense.	Yes
*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) 2019-2022	2019-2022
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	18
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	1
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=0, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP =0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP =0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=6, EP =0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=6, EP =3
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=0, EP =0
Other	PD=2, EP =0
<p>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.</p>	

