



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Boston Healthcare System

150 South Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02130
www.boston.va.gov

Dear Applicant:

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

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

Notification Day – Monday, February 12, 2024

For non-affiliate applicants, we intend to abide by the recruiting recommendations of the MPA Practicum Training Collaborative (PTC). Thus, we will make offers to non-affiliate applicants on the notification date of **Monday, February 12, 2024**. 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.

Affiliate Applicants (Boston University & Harvard University)

Affiliate student applications will be accepted beginning on **Monday, November 27, 2023** with a final deadline of **Monday, January 8, 2024**. 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 equal footing with non-affiliate applicants, meaning: 1) the applicant will be ranked without further consideration of affiliate status, and 2) 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 MPA PTC notification day, we will publicize that the slot is now filled to all interested parties.

Non-affiliate Applicants

Non-affiliate student applications will be accepted beginning on **Monday, December 4, 2023** with a final deadline of COB on **Monday, January 8, 2024**. Interviews are conducted during December and January.

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.

Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

We have a strong commitment to providing high-quality training in culturally-informed clinical care, recruiting practicum students from diverse backgrounds, and creating an inclusive and welcoming training culture. Our patient population is diverse and students will have opportunities to work with Veterans with diverse identities, including Veterans of Color and LGBTQ+ Veterans. Applications are welcomed from candidates committed to culturally-responsive care, and candidates from diverse backgrounds, including those traditionally underrepresented in psychology. If you would like to share more about your lived and/or professional experiences related to diversity and culturally-informed care, we encourage you to include a brief sentence or two about this in your cover letter.

Space Constraints

There are space constraints that exist at VABHS. 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.

Massachusetts Advanced Practicum

Finally, 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 feel free to contact me with any questions via email: 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