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| |  | | --- | | https://ctsi.mcw.edu/images/VA_Online_2017-1.png | | **The Zablocki VAMC Occupational Therapy Mental Health Fellowship Program,** offers a 12-month American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) accredited fellowship of didactic and clinical education. Our fellowship is dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of an occupational therapy practitioner pursing AOTA Board Certification in mental health occupational therapy. The curriculum is designed to increase the breadth and depth of knowledge, skill, and application of occupational therapy in mental health service provision. In addition, we aim to develop practitioners, who are committed to promoting the optimum health and function of our patients and who will advance the profession of OT through instruction, research and mentored patient care experiences.  Our goal is to provide a post-professional, specialty-defined educational experience to occupational therapists to equip them with the following abilities:   * Acquire knowledge and clinical skills to become advanced   practitioners in the field of mental health.   * Demonstrate advanced clinical expertise and clinical reasoning,   performance and interpersonal skills with the goal of improving  patient outcomes.   * Consistently and effectively utilize current evidence-informed   practice throughout the clinical decision-making process of patient  care and in providing consultation/education to other members of  the team.   * Exhibit understanding of the AOTA ethical principles and   demonstrate professional behaviors in the delivery of skilled  occupational therapy services which are consistent with those of an  advanced professional in the area of mental health.   * Participate in the development and execution of scholarly and/or   professional activities with a focus in mental health | |  | |  | | --- | | **Program benefits:**   * One-on-one clinical mentoring * 12 months of clinical exposure to the inpatient and residential clinic setting * Opportunity to participate in clinical research * Leadership skill development * Continuing education opportunities * Unique didactic and scholarly experiences * Salary and full-time benefits, including paid time off and sick leave   **Successful completion of the program will allow fellows eligibility to apply for AOTA Board Certification with three years of practice instead of the typical requisite of five years.** | |  | |  | |

**Curriculum**

The ZVAMC Occupational Therapy Mental Health Fellowship will focus on the fellow’s development of knowledge, competency, and advanced practice skills in the following core areas:

* + Advanced Knowledge
  + Reasoning and Performance Skills
  + Ethical Practice Skills
  + Interpersonal Skills
  + Scholarly and/or Professional Activities

The Fellow’s clinical experience will emphasize:

* Acquisition of knowledge pertaining to mental health conditions, developing clinical reasoning skills in relation to evaluation and intervention.
* Developing and using evidence-based practice skills
* Integration of didactic knowledge and experiential practice to develop interpersonal, scholarly and professional skills.

**Clinical Training**

* Caseload management in both the inpatient acute mental health and residential treatment settings
* Over 1400 hours to include didactic and clinical education, mentored service delivery (≥350 hours), and non-mentored service delivery
* Emphasis on mental health issues and their impact on occupational performance and participation

**Opportunities**

* Staff in-services
* Interdisciplinary rounds and care plan development
* Journal club implementation
* Evidence-based practice work groups
* On-site medical library, didactic resources and materials

**Dates to Remember**

* **Start Date for Submission of Applications: January 1, 2024**
* **Application Deadline: March 31, 2024**
* **Interview Days:  April 15- 19, 2024**
* **Notification Date: April 30, 2024**
* **Notification of Acceptance: May 15, 2024**
* **Fellowship Start Date: July 29, 2024**
  + Rotation 1: July 29th – January 24th         Residential/DOM 123

  Primary Mentor: Melissa Ward-Healy

* + Rotation 2: January 27th - July 25th          Acute/Inpatient

     Primary Mentor: Margy Schutz

* **Fellowship End Date: July 25, 2025**

Important Information:

Fellowship Webpage:

[Occupational Therapy Mental Health Fellowship Program | VA Milwaukee Health Care | Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/occupational-therapy-mental-health-fellowship-program/)

Contact Information:

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