

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic Geriatric Physical Therapy Residency



About the Program

The Geriatric Physical Therapy Residency Program at the Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic is undergoing accreditation by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education. The residency is a one year training program designed to maximize clinical exposure and rigorously challenge the resident to higher clinical and academic achievement under the mentorship of specialist clinicians.

Mission

The mission of the Jacksonville Outpatient VA Residency program is to provide exceptional and empowering care to our geriatric veteran population through developing master clinicians and leading therapists within the geriatric physical therapy board specialty area. The Jacksonville residency will cultivate highly skilled independent clinical specialists utilizing diverse clinical experiences, meaningful mentorship, and comprehensive didactic education which will provide the unique experience of being part of an interdisciplinary geriatric care team. The Geriatric Residency will be dedicated to honoring and upholding the Veterans Affairs Mission to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

The Geriatric Physical Therapy Residency includes exposure to multiple settings and specialty populations/issues within the geriatric umbrella. Practical experience combined with didactic training develops exceptional clinicians who will excel in the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention for geriatric patients. The purpose of this geriatric physical therapy residency is to produce clinicians who demonstrate superior clinical skills and possess advanced knowledge regarding the identification and management of aging and related issues. The program emphasizes a learning approach that is patient-centered and evidence based.

Curriculum and Training

Over the course of the 12-month geriatric residency, residents will participate in clinical training covering all body parts, systems, and learning to manage systemic dysfunction in all available physical therapy settings. The curriculum of study and practice-based methodology will be based on available literature from the APTA, Geriatric Academy, and Medbridge. This includes selected publications that meet the requirements found in the Description of Specialty Practice (DSP), Description of Residency Practice (DRP), and Geriatric Certification Candidate Guide and covers contemporary literature in geriatric health, medicine, and rehabilitation.

In addition to the faculty of specialist PTs, residents will also consult with a multi-disciplinary group of core faculty from geriatric medicine, pharmacy, psychiatry/psychology, and social work. Throughout, residents will be evaluated for mastery in each of the following clinical areas: acute care (visceral, cardiac, pulmonary, delirium, orthopedics, psychiatry, neurology), outpatient (orthopedics, vestibular, specialty seating/positioning/wheelchair, amputee/brace clinic), sub-acute rehab, and homebased care. Each section will cover the differential diagnosis of pathology, identification of red flag symptoms, signs, lab values, the need for referral, imaging, and evidence-based modality and procedural interventions as they pertain to the area of care and need of the individual patient.

Program Highlights

- Residents will receive – at a minimum – 150 hours of 1:1 mentorship throughout their training from board certified and/or residency trained faculty
- Residents receive salary and benefits with federal government as a ‘Post Doctoral Fellow,’ including pay and observance for all federal holidays
- Residents are granted 13 days of Annual Leave and 13 days of Sick Leave
- All course materials are furnished and purchased for residents under their name
- Residents are allowed to work within cutting edge areas of physical therapy care
- Receive experience and learning across multiple settings and domains throughout NFSG Veteran’s Health System.

Board Certification

The Geriatric Residency Program will prepare physical therapists with the knowledge and skills required to sit for and successfully pass the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS) board certification exam in Geriatrics. In addition to this, the program will prepare graduates to work as specialists within the VA and federal system.

Board Certification Pass Rate for First time Test Takers

- Non-Residency Graduates: 81%
- Residency Prepared Graduates: 96%
- NFSG Jacksonville OPC Geriatric Residency Graduates: NA¹ – first data expected June 2024

Important Data and Key Indicators of Program Quality

- Placement of Graduates in settings falling under the geriatric umbrella: 100%
 - Federal Employment following graduation: NA¹
 - Graduation rate: 100%
 - Board Certified and/or Residency Trained Faculty: 80%
- ¹ Program initiated in 2022 with expected graduation of first resident September 2023

Applications

If you are interested in submitting an application, please find us on RF-PTCAS!

Applicants are required to submit:

- Complete RF-PTCAS application inclusive of required letters of recommendation
- Written essays
- College and DPT school transcripts
- Resume/CV
- License (not required if pending NPTE)

Applicant Qualifications:

- Successful completion of a CAPTE accredited Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
- Intended (or current) Physical Therapy Licensure in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States
- US Citizenship
- Desire to attain an advanced skillset and specialty knowledge

Important dates for the 2024 application cycle:

Application deadline: March 31, 2024

Interviews: April 2024

Notification of Status: May 2024

Projected Start Date: Aug 19, 2024

Interviews will be granted to applicants demonstrating exemplary qualifications

For questions or additional information, please reach out and introduce yourself!

Program Director: [Dr. Lora Young, DPT, GCS](#)

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