



Psychology Internship Program

Greenville VA Health Care Center
401 Moye Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 830-2149
<http://www.durham.va.gov/locations/Greenville.asp>

MATCH Number: 242311
Applications Due: November 18, 2024

Accreditation Status

The doctoral internship program at the Greenville VA Health Care Center is accepting its seventh class of interns for the training year of 2025-2026. Our program is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The program is accredited by the American Psychological Association Council on Accreditation. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be addressed to:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 2002
Phone: (202) 336-5979 e-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Internet: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>

Application & Selection Procedures

Application Procedures

The Internship application process is online. To submit an application, please go to the APPIC website (www.appic.org) for instructions on how to complete the online APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI). Interested individuals who meet eligibility criteria should submit the following application materials:

- A cover letter indicating interests
- APPIC Online Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Official graduate transcript(s)
- Three letters of reference
- De-identified psychological report

Instructions and forms for the Applicant Agreement form required for the Match from the National Matching Program may be downloaded at the web site at www.natmatch.com/psychint. Applicants who cannot access the web site should contact National Matching Service (NMS) directly to request instructions and registration forms.

The deadline for submission of application materials is **November 18, 2024**

APPIC Program Code number: 242311

Interviews

Top candidates will be invited for interviews that take place in early to mid-January. All interviews will be virtual (either by telephone or video depending on the interviewee's preference). Opportunities to meet virtually with the training staff will be provided. Please indicate a daytime telephone number in your

application materials so you can be reached to schedule an interview. Inquiries may be made via e-mail at April.Trotman@va.gov.

“What surprised me the most about the training program was how diverse the patient population was. I frequently reflect back to experiences that I had while being an intern at the Greenville VA to help me with current cases.”
2017-2018 intern

Applicants not selected to interview will receive notification by e-mail no later than close of business, **December 13, 2024.**

The training year of 2025-2026 will begin on Monday August 4, 2025.

Director of Training

Training Director: April Trotman, Ph.D.
Greenville VA Health Care Center
Phone: (252) 830-2149
Fax: (252) 830-0215
e-mail: April.Trotman@va.gov

Please note that our program was on inactive status for the training years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 in order to allow for re-structuring of the program and staff recruitment.

Internship Program Admissions and Outcomes Tables see pages 18-20

COVID-19 Response and Adaptations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the training program with the support of Health Care Center leadership successfully transitioned our psychology interns to teleworking while maintaining almost all training activities without significant disruption. Specifically, all trainees continued to see veterans via telehealth for individual therapy and assessment, attended and participated in didactics and supervision via virtual media technologies, and benefited from live, direct observation of clinical care by supervising psychologists. During the pandemic, interns worked a rotating on-site and telework schedule which was flexible based on their individual needs. The only training activities that were suspended until the Greenville HCC returned to routine in person patient visits were a secondary rotation at a local medical center and neuropsychological testing. The health and safety of our psychology trainees, along with the competent care of our nation's veterans, is of utmost importance to us. We continued to provide high quality training in professional psychology while simultaneously keeping our trainees' health and wellness at the forefront. At the height of the pandemic, all mental health services (other than urgent care) at the Health Care Center were delivered by telehealth modalities. Our Health Care System followed a stepped approach to resumption of face to face services based on recommendations of national health organizations and related to local conditions.



(Welcome to North Carolina Sign)

“It was clear from the beginning that the psychologists and other mental health staff are highly-respected by the other providers at this VA.”
2017-2018 intern

Psychology Setting

The mission of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is to honor America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. As one of its four statutory missions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducts education and training to enhance the quality of care provided to patients within VHA "to educate for VA and for the Nation." Locally, the Greenville VA Health Care Center (HCC) conducts this mission by maintaining strong ties with East Carolina University and other institutions of higher learning, and housing numerous training programs in medicine (Gastroenterology, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Internal Medicine), nursing, nurse practitioner, social work, audiology, and pharmacy. Thus, the mission of the Greenville VA HCC is closely aligned with the aim of our internship program. The Greenville VA HCC affords interns ample opportunities to interact with professionals of other disciplines, engage in scholarly activity, and to provide psychological services to patients with a wide variety of backgrounds and presenting problems.

The psychology internship program at the Greenville VA HCC in Pitt County is the only accredited training program of its kind in eastern North Carolina, a predominately rural area. The HCC opened in March 2014 and was launched to better serve the health care needs of Veterans in these rural counties. The HCC is housed in an 116,000-square-foot clinic, set on 12 acres of land. Services provided include primary care, mental health, women's health, laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, audiology, cardiology, orthopedics, neurology, optometry, and

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dental services. The HCC is administratively part of the Durham VA Health Care System headquartered in Durham, NC. The HCC is adjacent to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University (ECU) and ECU Health Medical Center. Psychologists at the HCC have been involved in training practicum students from ECU's Department of Psychology since 2010 and accepted the first class of two psychology interns for the 2017-2018 academic year. Two of the psychology staff currently hold appointments as adjunct assistant professors at ECU.

Approximately 19,000 veterans received outpatient medical services at the Health Care Center in fiscal year 2021-2022. Of these, 40% were Black or African-American veterans and 52% White veterans. In fiscal year 2021-2022, the Health Care Center had 176,000 outpatient encounters. Male veterans comprised 86% of the total encounters and female veterans 14% (nationally, women represented about 10% of the total veteran population in 2019). 62% of encounters at the HCC were with veterans identified as living in rural or highly-rural areas. Veterans sixty-five years of age and older made up 54% of patient encounters.



(Greenville VA Health Care Center Building)

Staff and leadership at the Health Care Center feel a deep commitment to training the next generation of psychologists and embark on this enterprise with excitement and a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the process. Clinical practice at the Greenville VA HCC is informed by research, and interns have the opportunity to receive training in evidence-based assessment and treatment. We expect interns to think critically, to generate and test hypotheses related to their clinical work, and to become educated consumers of clinical research. At the Greenville VA HCC we focus on clinical practice and excellent service delivery in a setting where self-reflection and mentoring are valued. The intern is guided through training from a developmental approach. Interns will begin by observing their supervisors' clinical work, will advance to conducting assessment and therapy while receiving in-vivo supervision and feedback, and graduate to junior colleague status within each clinical rotation.

All staff psychologists are credentialed through the Durham VA Health Care System. Our Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health is psychiatrist, Jonathan Leinbach, MD, DFAPA and the Chief of Psychology is Stacey Kovac, Ph.D., both in the Durham VA Health Care System. Our Supervisory Psychologist is Robyn Kittrell, Ph.D. and our Training Director is April Trotman, Ph.D. The psychology staff is comprised of 10 total psychologists.

“Everyone was so considerate of my goals for training. This program and my supervisors made sure that I received the experiences necessary to be competitive in my chosen specialty.”
2017-2018 intern

Training Model and Program Philosophy

Our program follows the practitioner-scholar philosophy of training. We provide training in and encourage the use of evidence-based psychological practice. Our developmental training model emphasizes the progression from graduate student to professional ready for entry-level independent practice in psychology. The primary focus of the internship year is graduated experiential learning. Competencies in professional practice are developed through clinical practice, supervision, didactic training, and mentorship. Delivery of patient care is secondary to the educational mission of the internship. Interns play an important role in selecting their own training opportunities and developing training plans to meet their specific needs.

Program Goals & Objectives

Program Goals

The overarching goal of the Greenville VA HCC training program is to provide generalist training to prepare interns for clinical practice. The importance of clinical practice that has its foundation in the science of psychology is stressed. The program formally integrates science and practice in a number of ways including didactic seminars on practice issues that are based on current empirical literature and the use of empirically validated and supported assessment and clinical interventions. Our goals are consistent with the VA's mission to provide quality care to veterans while advancing state of the art services through research and education. Our program has nine primary goals.

Interns are expected to develop entry-level competency in the following profession-wide competency areas:

1. Integration of science and practice
2. Ethical and legal standards
3. Individual and cultural diversity
4. Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
5. Communication and interpersonal skills
6. Assessment
7. Intervention
8. Supervision
9. Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills

The program is designed to meet licensure requirements for the state of North Carolina. Applicants interested in licensure in other jurisdictions should determine whether the program will meet those requirements.

Training Schedule and Rotations

Prior to beginning orientation, interns develop an initial plan of training through email and telephone conference with the Training Director. During orientation week, interns may further refine their training schedule for the year after hearing presentations by all the faculty psychologists describing their rotations and associated training experiences. During orientation, interns will also go through self-assessment and administered assessments

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related to the competency areas above. Consulting closely with each other and the training committee, interns select those training experiences and develop individualized training goals that best meet their individual training needs and interests. An intern can expect to spend a minimum of 25% of time in direct psychological services (e.g., clinical/intake interviews, assessment, individual and group therapy, consultation, supervision). Past interns have typically obtained significantly more direct contact hours.

Program Structure

We anticipate having two full-time funded internship positions for the 2025-2026 class.

Structure: The primary clinical rotation is in general mental health. Interns rotate between general mental health supervisors at mid-point of the year and choose from the available secondary rotations in which to participate. The training year is structured in 6-month terms; each rotation (both primary and secondary) is of 6 months duration. Interns will be engaged in the primary rotation a total of approximately 16-24 hours per week and in the secondary rotation a range of 6-8 hours per week. In this fashion an intern can begin to develop a focus on an area of interest. Secondary rotation assignments will be based on consideration of both the intern's interests and identified training needs. Every effort will be made to assign training experiences that will balance the intern's interests with needs to ensure a broad range of clinical experiences depending on staff availability. Flexibility is a hallmark of the program, for example, a trainee interested in health psychology could have a term including a day on the PCMH rotation, a day on an ECU health psychology related position and two days in general mental health. It should be noted that only one non-VA rotation a term can be selected. While not formal rotations, trainees in the past have also been able to obtain experience in the Home-Based Primary Care, Military Sexual Trauma and Substance Use Disorder clinics.

Primary Rotation:

- a. **General Mental Health** – The intern on this rotation will work within a Behavioral Health Integrated Program (BHIP) and will have the opportunity to interact with other mental health disciplines including social work, nursing, and psychiatry providing team-based care for Veterans. At this time the general mental health clinic is staffed with five psychologists, seven psychiatrists, three clinical social workers, and five registered nurses. There are opportunities for experience in evidence-based psychotherapies (EBPs), such as Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (CPT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for depression (CBT-D). The intern will receive training in co-facilitating therapy groups such as CBT for depression. In addition, the intern will also receive training and experience in conducting comprehensive psychological evaluations. The intern will be expected to conduct initial intake interviews with new patients and to develop a small caseload as well as to participate in co-facilitating a therapy group. The intern will have the opportunity to work with patients presenting the full spectrum of mental health issues. (Supervisors: Robyn Kittrell, Ph.D., Samantha Manring, Ph.D., Phil Pegg, Ph.D., Robert Shelton, Psy.D., April Trotman, Ph.D.)

“I was surprised most by the willingness of supervisors to tailor the internship to meet my training needs.”
2017-2018 intern

Virtual PTSD Clinic – Interns will have the option to participate in a specialized trauma-based component of the General Mental Health rotation providing clinical services with the Raleigh Community Based Outpatient Clinic's virtual BHIP team. The Raleigh virtual BHIP includes a multidisciplinary team of psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatrists, and nursing providing care through telehealth. Interns will be integrated into the team to conduct intake assessments, treatment planning sessions, and trauma-focused psychotherapy. All team therapists are available to supervise several evidence based psychotherapies such as CPT, Prolonged Exposure (PE), Written Exposure Therapy (WET), Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD), and Concurrent Treatment of PTSD and Substance Use Disorders

Using Prolonged Exposure (COPE). (Supervisors: Courtney Dutton-Cox, Ph.D., Stephanie Rossitch, Ph.D.)

Secondary rotations:

Interns will choose from five secondary rotations (6-8 hours per week) including:

- a. **Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)**– the primary care clinic at the Greenville VA HCC served over 12,000 Veterans in the preceding 12 months. There has been an active PC-MHI team within the primary care clinic for over seven years, comprised of two psychologists, one clinical social worker, two registered nurse/care managers and one half-time psychiatrist. The intern on this rotation will be involved in a weekly interdisciplinary team meeting as well as “curbside consultations” with primary care providers and same-day consultations with patients seen in primary care. The focus is on learning the skills necessary to work in an integrated care setting with mental health providers who are co-located and collaborative in their work with primary care providers. PC-MHI’s focus is on mild to moderate anxiety and depression as well as on assisting with behavioral medicine interventions and facilitating patients accessing more intensive mental health services as needed. The intern will be trained in conducting brief, functional assessments and in brief therapies based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and will have the opportunity to learn a range of empirically based practices during their training in PC-MHI. A strength of this rotation is its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration; the intern will have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of shared medical appointments with other disciplines focused on issues such as cardiac wellness and hypertension. (Supervisor: Jessica Ford, Ph.D.)
- b. **ECU Brody School of Family Medicine Clinic** – Interns will have the opportunity to learn about the patient population on various rotations and the assessments and interventions being utilized and provide supervision to one or more doctoral level practicum students who are training in a variety of rotations including:
 - Telehealth at Eastern Physical Medicine and Rehab MAT program: Mandated counseling for substance use disorders
 - Substance use and mental health treatment for incarcerated individuals through the Sheriff’s Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (SHARP)
 - Rural integrated care training alongside PA students
 - Pain group
 - Family Medicine clinic
 (Supervisors: Robert Carels, Ph.D., ABPP, Marrissa Carraway, Ph.D.)
- c. **ECU Brody School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Health Psychology Service** - The Health Psychology Service secondary rotation is located in the ECU Brody School of Medicine Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic approximately two miles from the Greenville VA HCC. This secondary rotation offers an experience in pre-surgical and pre-treatment psychological evaluation. Trainees will receive training in health psychology/behavioral medicine assessment and treatment of medically and psychologically complex patient populations including morbidly obese candidates for bariatric surgery, renal transplant populations (donors and recipients), and chronic pain patients considering spinal cord stimulator implantation. In addition to evaluation/assessment, trainees also have the opportunity to provide interventions to these patient populations aimed at improving post-surgical/treatment outcomes. Interdisciplinary learning opportunities include side-by-side learning with psychology practicum students, psychiatry residents and medical students in clinic and in available didactic seminars. Services are being delivered by telehealth and in person at this time. (Supervisors: Ashley Harper, Ph.D., Brandon Kyle, Ph.D.)
- d. **ECU Brody School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Consultation-Liaison Service** – The consultation-liaison (CL) service secondary rotation is located at Vidant Medical Center approximately one mile from the Greenville VA HCC. Vidant Medical Center is licensed for 974 beds and is a Level 1 Trauma Center, one of 6 in the state of North Carolina. It is the only level I trauma center east of Raleigh, and thus is the hub of medical care for a broad and

complicated rural region of over 1.5 million people. This secondary rotation offers an experience in providing inpatient mental health assessment and treatment. Specifically, trainees receive training in conducting capacity evaluations, assisting physicians in differential diagnosis, working with patients on coping with illness, and administering psychometric tests to assist with treatment decisions. The mission of the CL service is to provide service to both the patient and the primary team in managing the patient's care while in the hospital as well as to help transition back to life outside the facility. Interdisciplinary care is highlighted in this experience, and trainees have the opportunity to develop consult/liaison skills while interacting with various medical teams. (Supervisors: Karlene Cunningham, Ph.D., Ashley Harper, Ph.D.)

- e. **ECU Brody School of Medicine Department of Cardiovascular Sciences** – The Cardiac Psychology Rotation offers training in psychosocial care that is fully integrated into the medical team to promote an interdisciplinary, comprehensive care approach to cardiac patients and their families. Trainees work side by side with psychologists and cardiologists to provide a biopsychosocial model of care at the East Carolina Heart Institute. Team based care is provided to patients with aortic disease. Assessment and therapy training is also concentrated in patients with cardiac arrhythmias and patients with devices such as pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators. Additional opportunities to collaborate at Healthsteps - Cardiac Rehabilitation are available. (Supervisor: Samuel Sears, Ph.D., ABPP)

“I had some group experience prior to internship but I now feel I am competent to run group due to all the groups I was involved in throughout internship.”
2019-2020 intern

DIDACTIC TRAINING and SEMINARS

Time is reserved each week for several seminar series designed to provide greater breadth and depth to each intern's training. These include:

Didactic Seminar Series

The Greenville VA HCC Psychology Training Program includes an average minimum of two hours of weekly didactic training for interns including seminars in the following areas:

Psychological Assessment, Psychological Intervention, Clinical Supervision, Ethics, Diversity, and Professional Development. Seminars take place as formal lectures, demonstrations, and journal club discussions.



(Tar River Greenville, NC)

a. **Psychological Assessment**

Seminars on psychological assessment will include those related to assessment in general mental health and brief assessment in Health Psychology. Examples of these seminars include Neuropsychological Assessment of Traumatic Brain Injury, Personality Assessment, Suicide Risk Assessment, Violence Risk Assessment, Assessment of PTSD, MMPI-2-RF/PAI, Assessment of SUD, Brief Assessment in Behavioral Sleep Medicine, and Introduction to Integrated Care.

b. **Psychological Intervention**

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Interns will learn about an array of evidence-based practices, including cognitive behavioral therapies for PTSD, depression, insomnia, substance abuse, tobacco cessation, and chronic pain, as well as CPAP desensitization, treatment of SUD, and mindfulness interventions, among others. Interns with a commitment to provision of services for PTSD may also choose to be involved in formal VA training for Cognitive Processing Therapy, a gold standard treatment for PTSD. This training typically consists of three days of training early in the training year conducted by a nationally recognized VA training consultant, plus six months of supervised practice of the psychotherapy along with consultation from a VA training consultant. The three-day training takes place at the Durham VA Medical Center and weekly consultation occurs via secure telephone connection. (Note that opting for training in CPT will require commitment to maintaining and recruiting a caseload of 3-4 patients per week in addition to other scheduled activities in order to achieve VA requirements for provider certification. VA provider certification cannot be guaranteed.)

c. Clinical Supervision Series

A series of lectures on theories and methods of supervision is provided. This series is designed to orient interns to challenges and goals in providing supervision to trainees in the field of psychology. Topics covered include supervision for beginners, competencies of a clinical supervisor, multicultural issues in clinical supervision, and the ethics of clinical supervision.

d. Ethics Series

Continuing education in the field of ethics is a core goal of the Intern Lecture Series. These seminars are offered in a variety of formats, including case discussions, multimedia presentations, and debates of ethical issues. Topics covered may include psychology ethics in the VA, boundaries and multiple relationships, confidentiality in the digital age, and the ethics of neuropsychological testing.

“Supervision in all capacities was such an enriching experience. I learned so much from having multiple supervision sessions with different supervisors - it has truly helped further develop the type of psychologist I aspire to be.”
2019-2020 intern

e. Diversity Series

The Psychology Internship Program places a major emphasis on training in cultural sensitivity and issues of individual and cultural diversity in clinical practice. These seminars focus on recognizing issues of individual and cultural diversity, acknowledging these issues in a professional context, coping with personal biases and stereotypes, and effective practice with culturally diverse populations. The seminars are taught from an experiential perspective and interns are involved in role plays, case discussions, and other activities that promote self-reflection and interactive learning. Topics include military culture, experiences of women while active duty and as veterans, cultural competence in psychological assessment and intervention, clinical issues of LGBTQ, rural culture, spirituality and religion, and microaggressions.

f. Professional Development Series

A series of seminars are focused on professional development issues including preparing to find a position in professional psychology. Topics include adjustment to internship, understanding veterans' benefits, leadership in psychology, and applying to post-doctoral and professional positions.

g. Journal Club

A monthly, discussion focused seminar on topics such as diversity, ethics, and professional development. Interns are expected to facilitate the discussion at least six times through the course of the year.

Grand Rounds

The Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and Neurology at ECU's Brody School of Medicine sponsor Grand Rounds on a routine basis. While interns are not required to attend Grand Rounds, attendance provides exposure to a broad base of knowledge.

Supervision

Each intern is provided a minimum of four hours of scheduled supervision weekly, two of which are provided individually by a member of the internship faculty. Typically, two hours of individual supervision are provided weekly on the primary rotation, one hour individually is provided on the secondary rotation, and an hour weekly of additional group supervision is provided. In addition, psychology faculty typically are available as needed for "ad hoc" supervision, so in actuality the total hours of supervision would exceed four weekly.

Requirements for Completion

Interns are provided with performance criteria for each rotation and an evaluation form that reflects the expectations regarding clinical competencies an intern should be attaining. In addition to ensuring a minimum of 2080 hours of training experience, completed over the course of 12 months, interns must achieve competency ratings equivalent to "Intermediate to advanced" in all competency areas of the rotations completed. Evaluations are conducted four times a year (i.e., mid-first rotation, end of first rotation, mid-second rotation, end of second rotation/end of year). Interns are expected to make two formal case presentations during the seminar series, one on an assessment case and one on an intervention case. Interns are also expected to satisfactorily complete a minimum of four psychological evaluations through the course of the year. Interns will also be rated on their facilitation of journal clubs during the seminar series.



(Dickinson Avenue Arts District, Greenville, NC Uptown)

“I think that a strength of the training program is the size because I got to know the psychologists on a professional and personal level, as well as everyone’s passion for training. The training program is small, but mighty.”
2017-2018 intern

In addition to developing clinical competencies, maintaining good standing within the program also necessitates certain levels of professional behavior. Interns are expected to appear and conduct themselves as professionals. Veterans and staff shall be treated with dignity and respect. The APA ethical guidelines and HIPPA regulations will be strictly adhered to, especially in matters of confidentiality of information, non-exploitation of patients and avoiding conflicts of interests. Additionally, interns are responsible for conforming to all other Health Care Center and Office of Personnel Management regulations concerning conduct and behavior.

Facility and Training Resources

Interns are provided with office space and secure networked computers necessary for patient care and administrative responsibilities. They have access to the VA Medical Library services such as entire text databases like Ovid, as well as VA Intranet and Internet resources for clinical work and research. Interns can expect to telework at least part of their time and a VA laptop is provided for that.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

The Greenville VA HCC’s policy on Authorized Leave is consistent with the national standard.

The Intern Leave Policy and Due Process, Remediation of Problematic Intern Performance and Grievance Procedures are available upon request from the Training Director at April.Trotman@va.gov.

Privacy policy: We collect no personal information from you when you visit our web site.

Self-Disclosure: We do not require interns to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting an intern's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties.

“Everyone is friendly, inviting, and genuinely wants the best for you and is willing to help in whatever way they can.”
2018-2019 intern

VA Training Faculty

Courtney Dutton-Cox, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2017, University of Arkansas

Internship: Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Fellowship: Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

Licensure: North Carolina #5472

Clinical Interests: Posttraumatic stress, substance use, exposure therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Steven Erickson, Psy.D., Staff Neuropsychologist

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Education: Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, 2016, Illinois School of Professional Psychology
Fellowship: Veterans Affairs Maine Healthcare System (Togus) (APPCN-accredited program)
Neuropsychology Resident
Licensure: North Carolina, #5343
Clinical Interests: Adult/Geriatric Neuropsychology, ADHD, neurobiology of PTSD
Research Interests: neuropsychology of mood/stress disorders, quantified process approach to neuropsychological interpretation, integration of neuropsychology with neuroscience
Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-Behavioral

Jessica Ford, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D. Clinical Health Psychology, 2014, East Carolina University
Licensure: North Carolina #103250
Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association; Division 19 Member and Early Career Psychology Committee Chair, Society of Military Psychology
Clinical Interests: Behavioral Sleep Medicine, Brief Evidence-Based Treatments, Third-Wave Behavioral Therapies
Research Interests: Veteran and Military Service Member health (especially as it relates to mental and behavioral health and healthcare influences on cardiovascular health); brief treatments and increasing reach of mental/behavioral health treatments adaptations of evidence-based treatments via media or duration; psychosocial aspects of living with Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators
Theoretical Orientation: Predominantly cognitive-behavioral and acceptance/mindfulness-based.

Robyn Kittrell, Ph.D., Supervisory Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 2002, Western Michigan University
Licensure: Indiana #20041894A, North Carolina #6340
Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association, Division 17-Society of Counseling Psychology
Clinical Interests: specialize on trauma/PTSD in therapy, including combat and Military Sexual Trauma
Research Interests: skills training for ethics in private practice and supervision/training
Theoretical Orientation: interpersonal therapy integrating cognitive behavioral and emotionally focused interventions

Sam Manring, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2019, University of Tennessee
Fellowship: John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan (Interprofessional Mental Health emphasis)
Licensure: Michigan #6301018847
Professional Organizations: American Psychological Association
Clinical Interests: Interpersonal dynamics, complex trauma, personality pathology, mood and anxiety concerns, addiction
Theoretical Orientation: Predominantly psychodynamic and third-wave cognitive behavioral

Emily Midgette, PhD, Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Health Psychology, 2023, East Carolina University
Internship: Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Clinical Interests: Rural mental health, acceptance and values-based behavior change, adjustment to chronic illness and managing multimorbidity, caregiver stress and support, chronic pain management
Theoretical Orientation: CBT; acceptance/values-based modalities

Phil Pegg, PhD, Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2003, Virginia Commonwealth University
Internship: Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA
Fellowship: Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA
Licensure: Missouri #2009015282
Clinical Interests: Psychotherapy; Personality Assessment; Neuropsychological Assessment
Research Interests: Behavioral medicine, stress and coping; applications of interpersonal theory to psychopathology, broad personality theory, ethnic identity and ethnic identity development.
Theoretical Orientation: Interpersonal/Third Wave Cognitive-Behavioral.

Stephanie Salcedo Rossitch, PhD, Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2020, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Internship: Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

Fellowship: Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC (Trauma Emphasis)

Licensure: North Carolina #5952

Clinical Interests: Assessment and treatment of mood disorders; posttraumatic stress; health services research; cultural adaptations; Prolonged Exposure; Dialectical Behavioral Therapy

Robert Shelton, Psy.D., Staff Psychologist

Education: Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, 1999, Spalding University

Licensure: North Carolina #2621

Clinical Interests: Veteran's health, pain management, mindfulness-based interventions

Research Interests: chronic disease management, psychology training, health effects of stress

Theoretical Orientation: Predominantly cognitive-behavioral and acceptance/mindfulness-based.

April Trotman, Ph.D., Training Director and Staff Psychologist

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2017, University of Rhode Island

Internship: Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center/Medical College of Georgia Consortium, Augusta, GA

Fellowship: Hampton VA Medical Center, Hampton, VA (Women and Trauma Emphasis)

Licensure: Virginia #0810006340

Clinical Interests: Women's mental and sexual health, trauma/intimate partner violence, LGBTQ identities, multicultural competence, couples, behavioral health utilization, self-care and compassion, professional burnout

Theoretical Orientation: Integrative, multicultural, third wave approaches

Adjunct Faculty

Ashley J. Harper, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor & Health Psychology Clinical Training Liaison,

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Counseling Psychology with Health Psychology emphasis, 2017, University of Georgia

Internship: Henry Ford Hospital (Detroit, MI), Health Psychology Track

Fellowship: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC (Behavioral Medicine Emphasis)

Licensure: North Carolina #5551

Professional Organizations: Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC), Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry (ACLP), NC E-AHEC Mental Health Representative. American Psychological Association, Southeastern Psychological Association

Clinical Interests: Inpatient psychological consultations to determine medical decision-making capacity and for behavioral management of medical conditions, pre-surgical evaluations, evidence-based individual and systemic cognitive-behavioral interventions for health behavior change/pain management/mood and anxiety disorders

Research Interests: Alternative measurements of obesity in healthcare & bariatrics, cultural and social factors in health behavior change/chronic illness/psychopathology, health literacy and numeracy on health outcomes, the impact of pre-surgical quality of life and social support on post-surgical outcomes, social support and self-efficacy on health outcomes, quality of life of chronic pain and headaches/migraines, ethnic disparities in physical/mental health and implicit provider biases, medical education in psychiatry/ behavioral medicine

Theoretical Orientation: Integrative (Cognitive-Behavioral & Interpersonal) and Solution-Focused

Robert Carels, Ph.D., MBA, ABPP, Professor, Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1996, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fellowship: Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine, Duke University Medical School

Licensure: North Carolina #2352

Clinical Interests: Developing more effective behavioral weight loss treatments through the application of theory-driven innovation, also committed to better understanding and combating weight stigma in its many forms

Research Interests: Treatment of obesity, stepped-care approaches to weight loss treatment, weight stigma

Marissa Carraway, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Psychology at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Health Psychology, 2014, East Carolina University

Fellowship: Integrated Health Psychology Cherokee Health Systems, Knoxville, TN.

Licensure: North Carolina #4866

Clinical and Research Interests: Integrated Care, behavioral medicine, obesity, diabetes



Duck pond at ECU School of Medicine Greenville, NC – source: <https://microbiology-immunology.ecu.edu/>

S. Karlene Cunningham, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of Research, Vice-Chair of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2014, Auburn University

Fellowship: Brown University Clinical Psychology Training Consortium (Behavioral Medicine/HIV Emphasis)

Licensure: Rhode Island #PS01570; North Carolina #5007 HSP

Clinical Interests: Sexual and reproductive health, perinatal mood disorders, chronic illness (e.g., HIV), cancer

Research Interests: Sexual health, psychometrics, assessment, implementation science, evidenced based practice

Theoretical Orientation: Transtheoretical, predominately Cognitive-Behavioral and Interpersonal approaches

Brandon N. Kyle, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2010, West Virginia University

Fellowship: South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, TX (Primary Care/Health Psychology Emphasis)

Licensure: North Carolina #4157

Professional Organizations: Association for Contextual Behavioral Science, Society of Behavioral Medicine, American Psychological Association

Clinical Interests: Pre-surgical (e.g., bariatric, transplant, spinal cord stimulator) psychological evaluation, evidence-based cognitive-behavioral assessment and intervention for health behavior change/chronic pain/depression/anxiety

Research Interests: Pain (e.g., acute, chronic, dental, spinal cord stimulator implantation), medical education (e.g., undergraduate and graduate psychiatry, behavioral medicine education)

Theoretical orientation: Behavioral, Cognitive-Behavioral

Samuel F. Sears, Ph.D, ABPP, Professor, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences and Psychology, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Education: Ph.D., Clinical and Health Psychology, 1995, University of Florida, Gainesville

Internship: University of Mississippi Medical Center/Veteran Affairs Medical Center Consortium, Jackson, MS

Licensure: North Carolina #3500, Florida #5538

Professional Organizations: North Carolina Psychological Association, Florida Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Clinical Interests: Patients with cardiac arrhythmias, recovery from cardiac events, chronic heart failure, fears of exercise in cardiac patients

Research Interests: Cardiac psychology, patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillators, cardiac rehabilitation, evaluation of medical innovations in cardiology

Trainees

2017-2018 Internship Class

Marywood University
Pacific University

2018-2019 Internship Class

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Nova Southeastern University

2019-2020 Internship Class

University of Georgia
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

2020-2021 Internship Class

Fielding University
Our Lady of the Lake University

2021-2022 Internship Class

Jackson State University
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

2024-2025 Internship Class

University of St. Thomas
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Local Area:

Greenville is widely recognized as the cultural, educational, economic, and medical hub of Eastern North Carolina. While retaining its Southern charm, Greenville has grown into the 12th largest city in the state and is now a thriving, small metropolitan city of about 90,000 in the heart of Pitt County which has a population of over 175,000 residents.

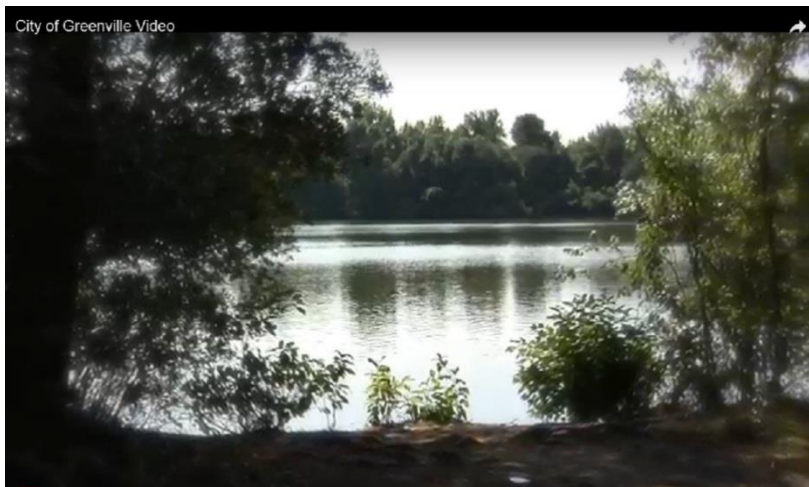
Greenville is a growing university-medical community, home to East Carolina University and ECU Health Medical Center, along with a strong industrial community. Greenville is also an accommodating event and leisure destination with an expanding Greenville Convention Center Campus, and a vibrant Uptown Greenville District with its own diverse art, music, food, and festival scene featuring an increasing number of unique, locally-owned businesses, galleries, shops, and restaurants.

“What I really valued about the program was all the supervisors and healthcare center’s investment in our training. I also appreciated how open and welcoming the psychology staff was throughout the year.” 2017-2018 intern

Greenville can be found in the center of Pitt County, along the beautiful Tar River in Eastern North Carolina’s Inner Banks, approximately 85 miles east of the state capital of Raleigh and 87 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean. The area’s numerous waterways offer opportunities for boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking, camping, and birding. Our community is also fortunate to have one of the most extensive recreation and greenway systems in the region, including the 324 acre River Park North, the Greenville Town Common, and Greenville Greenway System, which visitors and residents can enjoy during all four seasons every year thanks to our relatively mild climate.

East Carolina University is the 3rd largest public university in North Carolina, with over 28,000 students and 6,000 faculty and staff. ECU Brody School of Medicine is affiliated with ECU Health Medical Center, one of four academic medical centers in North Carolina. This 900+ bed academic medical center is a tertiary referral center and provides acute, intermediate, rehabilitation and outpatient health services to more than 1.4 million people in 29 counties.

Area Links:



(Ctrl+Click picture to the left for video)

[Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greenville-Pitt County NC Convention and Visitors Center](#)

[Uptown Greenville](#) (a private nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the city’s center—the Uptown business district)

[Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge](#) (a non-

profit arts organization dedicated to educating, inspiring and making the arts accessible to the entire Pitt County community)

[East Carolina University](#)

[ECU Visual and Performing Arts](#)

[ECU Health Medical Center](#)

[East Carolina Velo Cycling Club](#)

[Running Clubs](#)

[Canoe/Kayaking](#)

[Greenville, NC #22 on Forbes list of “Best Small Places for Business and Careers”](#)

Beaches:

[North Carolina Crystal Coast](#) “With more than 85 miles of enticing North Carolina coastline, nine distinct regions – including “America’s Favorite Town” – and hundreds of events and activities”

[Hammocks Beach State Park](#) “A crown jewel of the North Carolina coast and Hammocks Beach State Park is Bear Island—a three-mile-long, undeveloped barrier island accessible by the park’s passenger ferry, private ferry or by paddling a canoe or kayak.”

[“Best-Kept Secrets: NC’s Inner and Outer Banks a land of pirates, wolves, legends”](#)

Nearby communities:

[Washington, NC](#) - “the original Washington”

[New Bern, NC](#) – North Carolina’s Colonial Capitol

[Raleigh, NC](#)

Airports:

Locally, Greenville is serviced by [Pitt-Greenville Airport](#)

Additional flights are available out of [Raleigh-Durham International Airport](#)

[Greenville Map](#)

Driving Directions to Greenville VA Health Care Center

From the East

Take NC 43 to Highway 11 into Greenville.

Make a left on Arlington Blvd, and follow to Stantonsburg Road. Make a right onto Stantonsburg. Follow to Rite Aid Drug Store.

At Rite Aid Drug Store, make a left onto Moye Blvd. Moye Blvd ends at 5th Street. Straight ahead, through the traffic light, is the Greenville HCC (401 Moye Blvd, Greenville, NC 27834) just past Jimmy John’s and Microtel Inn. Look for the large blue VA logo on the front of the building.

From the West

Take NC 264 into Greenville.

As you enter Greenville and start approaching Vidant Memorial Hospital, look for a Rite Aid Drug Store on your right. At the Rite Aid Drug Store, make a left onto Moye Blvd. Moye Blvd. ends at 5th Street. Straight ahead, through the traffic light, is the Greenville HCC (401 Moye Blvd, Greenville, NC 27834) just past Jimmy John’s and Microtel Inn. Look for the large blue VA logo on the front of the building.

Program Tables - Admissions, Support, and Placement Data

Date Program Tables are updated: 7/9/2024

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:	
<p>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doctoral student in a clinical or counseling psychology program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) 2. Approval for internship status by the graduate program training director 3. A minimum of 300 direct intervention and 50 direct assessment hours of supervised graduate level pre- internship practicum experience. There is a clear focus on the quality of training experiences rather than total hours. 4. U.S. citizenship 5. Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 6. Matched interns are subject to fingerprinting, background checks, and urine drug screens. Match results and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. <p>Selection Process</p> <p>A selection committee will review and rank applications and top-ranked applicants will be offered virtual or telephone interviews (depending on candidate's preference) by two committee members to take place in early to mid-January. Opportunities to meet virtually with current interns and the training staff-faculty will be provided. Please indicate a daytime telephone number in your application materials so you can be reached to schedule an interview. Inquiries may be made via e-mail at April.Trotman@va.gov .</p>	

The Greenville VA Health Care Center Psychology Internship Program complies with all APPIC guidelines in the recruitment and selection of interns and participates in the National Matching Service Match program. "This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant" (APPIC Match Policies). A complete copy of APPIC policies and the computer matching program can be found at the APPIC website, http://www.appic.org/ . Candidates preferably will have only minor dissertation requirements remaining. Preference will be given to candidates who have supervised assessment and therapy experience with a range of psychopathology across varied populations and settings, as well as supervised training in objective psychological test interpretation. Minority applicants and those with interests and expertise in minority issues are encouraged to apply. We are committed to ensuring a range of diversity among our training classes with respect to Veteran status, members of historically underrepresented groups, sexual orientation, and disability status. All things being equal, consideration is given to applicants who identify themselves as Veterans or members of historically underrepresented groups.	
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:	
Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours	Yes, Amount = 300
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	Yes, Amount = 50
Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:	
The program does not have additional screening criteria.	
Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	34,834
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?	Yes
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):	NA
*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)	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	2
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=0, EP =0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=1, EP =0
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=0, EP =0
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.	