

The logo for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, featuring the letters 'VA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Bedford VA Healthcare System

MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACITIONER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The 12-month Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Residency program provides clinical and academic experiences for new graduate mental health nurse practitioners transitioning into practice. The residency provides a supportive interprofessional learning environment for providing evidence-based clinical care to our nation's Veterans. Upon successful completion of the residency, a certificate of completion is awarded.

Residency curriculum includes:

- Clinical rotations (80% of experience)
- Integrated and parallel didactics and educational experiences (20% of experience)
- Completion of a quality improvement project

Clinical rotations may include:

- Primary Care Behavioral Health
- Women's Mental Health
- Behavioral Addiction
- Interdisciplinary Pain Program
- Tobacco Cessation Clinic
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program for SMI
- Opportunities for additional specialty experience in: Mental Health Urgent Walk-in Clinic, Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, further training in individual and group psychotherapies

Supervision and training:

- Regular interdisciplinary supervision and mentorship with psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed independent clinical social workers
- Weekly group supervision with interdisciplinary mental health trainees facilitated by faculty members and monthly nurse practitioner resident peer consultation meetings
- Training in an evidence-based psychotherapy with a weekly consultation seminar. Past NP residents have trained in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, acceptance and commitment therapy for depression, and cognitive behavioral therapy for substance use disorders

- Grand rounds and various VA hosted webinars and trainings. Opportunities for specialized trainings, including women's reproductive mental health and didactics with addictions psychiatrists. Past residents have also been funded to attend the annual MGH psychopharmacology conference and various VA hosted conferences
- Weekly psychiatry journal clubs facilitated by staff psychiatrist
- Psychiatry didactics pertaining to diagnostic evaluation, psychopharmacology, and psychotherapeutic treatment approaches
- Weekly interprofessional education seminars with interdisciplinary trainees

Applicant qualifications

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Be a recent graduate of a master's, post-master's certificate, or doctoral-level Nurse Practitioner program accredited by CCNE or the ACEN within the past 12 months prior to program start date
- Possess current national board certification as a PMHNP Across the Lifespan through ANCC or be eligible to sit for board examination
- Possess a current, full active and unrestrictive registration as a registered nurse AND nurse practitioner in a state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, prior to the start of the NPR program (*exceptions may be made for highly qualified candidates with later graduation dates*)
- Be serving in their first Nurse Practitioner role in the specialty area as the program focus (Mental Health)
- Current BLS certification (must be maintained throughout the entirety of the program)
- Proficient in written and spoken English
- Background and security investigation required
- Provide evidence or self-certification of satisfactory physical condition based on a physical examination in the past 12-months
- Provide evidence or self-certification of up-to-date vaccinations for healthcare workers as recommended by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and VA <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>
- Random drug testing may be required

* June and July graduates may apply and will be considered, as long as graduation is before the program start date

Application Requirements

- Curriculum vitae (please include graduation date)
- Official graduate school transcripts

- Copy of RN license and current BLS (and APRN license and ANCC board certification if already obtained)
- Personal statement: maximum of two (2) pages: what personal, professional, educational, and clinical experiences have led you to choose nursing as a profession, and the role of a mental health nurse practitioner as a specialty practice? What are your goals and aspirations for this residency program and how do they fit with your early and long-term career goals?
- Three (3) letters of recommendation (one must be from a faculty member of graduate program) emailed directly from individual writing letter to Kerri.Keeler@va.gov or in sealed envelope

Application Deadline: March 3, 2025

Application Submission:

Application materials may be emailed directly to kerri.keeler@va.gov. Official transcripts may be submitted via email or mailed to:

Kerri Keeler, Mental Health Clinic Mail Stop 136G Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital 200 Springs Road Bedford MA 01730

Benefits

- Competitive stipend: As of AY 2024, stipend amount is : \$88,616
- A comprehensive benefits package that includes, in part, paid vacation, sick leave, federal holidays, and health benefits
- Hiring preference for open positions at Veterans Health Administration following successful completion of the residency

Program Start: Late August/Early September 2025 (exact start date TBD)

Questions? Please contact Program Director Kerri Keeler, PMHNP-BC

Kerri.Keeler@va.gov

781-687-3897

