The Psychology Internship at Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO) is an APA accredited, full time, one year internship in health service psychology where we emphasize a flexible, individualized approach to training and enjoy a collegial environment. Our program offers generalist training while also offering the opportunity to emphasize PTSD treatment, Neuropsychology, or outpatient General Mental Health through your choice of major rotation. Our interns may also gain experience with medical and psychiatric inpatients, and have opportunities for a range of other experiences within a comprehensive VA medical center. Faculty and interns collaborate in selecting minor rotations and other clinical experiences that best suit each intern’s needs and objectives for training. The Psychology Internship at VHSO is an APPIC member program.

Training in Psychology at VHSO
We believe internship should be a year of intensive clinical training and growth, preparing students for generalist practice or subsequent specialized training. Quality internship training is necessarily challenging, but should not be overwhelming. The experience should be a developmental one, in which interns grow from students, equipped with academic knowledge and able to practice under supervision, into professionals who are able to apply their knowledge and skills with faculty functioning in a more consultative role. Consistent with the graded model of training within each rotation, interns have the opportunity to shadow their supervisors, followed by joint work and monitoring with feedback, and then by increasing independence in supervised practice. We believe clinical training is at its best when it is a collaborative process that honors both the intern’s clinical interests and faculty’s understanding of the intern’s training needs and growth areas.
Mentorship and role modelling are fundamental teaching tools in our training process, and we seek to perform our roles as training psychologists in a largely transparent way that helps interns to understand both our approach to training and the professional roles for which they are preparing. We believe these roles include several values that are so pervasive that they constitute part of the ground upon which professional practice rests. These values include ethical behavior; an understanding of professional psychology as both a human art and the extension of science into clinical practice; and the importance of maintaining our own personal balance and humanity while doing this challenging work. The clinical practice of psychology draws upon multiple ways of knowing, and we respect this diversity of knowledge bases but give pride of place to the results of empirical research. We respect the diverse experiences, identities, and cultural values of our patients and recognize that our clinical work with them must utilize their cultural identity if we are to be effective agents of healing. We value diversity of identity, opinion, and theoretical orientation within psychology as well, and seek to model that as a strength that allows us to draw on multiple approaches in our work. In line with this, we hope to expose interns to different approaches to supervision and teaching and to encourage interns’ development of flexible thinking in clinical problem solving and application of clinical technique. We also respect the knowledge base and fresh perspectives that our interns bring, and welcome interns to freely share their ideas, questions, and feedback.

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The major training activity at VHSO is experiential learning through the direct provision of health services. This includes experience on multiple rotations, allowing a diversity of training in psychology and in various interdisciplinary treatment teams. Students will also have structured didactic experiences delivered by supervisors and other professional staff as well as some outside presenters. These will include topics presented in a single session and some presented across several sessions or in a recurring seminar format. Interns will engage in research and scholarly inquiry as part of clinical rotations that emphasize evidence-based practices, through independent and guided consultation of the literature to inform clinical decisions, journal club,
and as part of preparing their own presentations. Interns may also have opportunities to engage in scholarly and research projects with faculty as clinical load, dissertation progress, and availability of projects allow. We intend to encourage interns’ development as consumers of clinical research and, for those interested, contributors to the growth of the field.

Training Aims & Competencies
In order to prepare interns for entry level employment in a VA or other setting, or for advanced training through postdoctoral fellowships, the Psychology Internship at VHSO will provide training and/or supervised experience in the several recognized professional competencies of health service psychologists. These competencies include:

- Research
- Ethical and legal standards
- Individual and cultural diversity
- Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Assessment
- Intervention
- Supervision
- Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills

Many of these competencies are integral to clinical work, and will thus be areas of training that are included in all clinical rotations and experiences. Some, such as individual and cultural diversity and supervision, will receive additional attention through seminars. In line with our setting in a VA Medical Center, all of our interns will gain extensive experience working with veterans. We expect that all of our interns will demonstrate competency in use of empirically based psychotherapies with an adult population. We also work to ensure that all of our interns have meaningful clinical experiences in integrated psychological assessments, group therapy, and working in interprofessional treatment teams. Naturally, a higher level of competence is expected in each intern’s area of major rotation.

Minimum Requirements for Hours
Based on a one year, full time internship, we have the following minimum requirements for successful completion of the internship.

- Complete at least 500 hours (25% of full time effort) of direct patient contact
- Complete at least 200 hours (10% of full time effort) of supervision
- Complete at least 100 hours (5% of full time effort) of didactic training experience
Evaluation
Interns receive continuous evaluation and feedback through individual supervision. The Training Committee also reviews each intern’s progress in our regular meetings. This discussion will include each intern’s strengths and challenges as a clinician and as a trainee. We have found these regular, informal reviews to be a valuable way of identifying growth areas that can then be addressed in individual supervision and sometimes by tailoring future clinical assignments to address specific training needs. If we are successful as a faculty, we should be able to address interns’ growth areas through training and supervision in ways that lead to better training experiences without having to resort to formal remediation. Any areas of concern that are raised in these monthly discussions will also be shared with the interns by individual supervisors or the Training Director. Interns receive formal, written evaluation of their performance at or about the end of each four month trimester. To successfully complete the internship, interns must have average ratings of at least “intermediate to advanced” (4 on a 5 point scale) for each competency area on their end of year summative evaluation. Interns are encouraged to provide continuous informal feedback about their rotations and their supervision experiences. This can be provided directly to individual supervisors or to the Training Director, who is typically available at least several times a week for informal meetings or consultation. Interns are also invited to provide formal feedback regarding their rotations and supervisors at the end of each rotation and through an exit survey completed near the end of the internship. In case these evaluation and feedback methods prove inadequate, the VHSO Psychology Internship does have formal, written grievance and remediation policies. These are provided to all interns at the beginning of the internship as part of the Orientation and Policy Manual, and will also be provided to applicants and other interested parties on request. Please email the Training Director if you would like to receive this information.

Program Structure
The Psychology Internship at VHSO is a full-time, one year internship. Interns will complete approximately 2000 hours of internship training during a twelve month calendar year. We are offering 3 positions for the 2019/2020 training year with an anticipated stipend of $26,166. As federal employees, interns are eligible for health insurance (for self, spouse, and legal dependents) and life insurance. Interns receive the 10 annual federal holidays and approximately 104 hours of annual leave. Interns also accrue 4 hours of sick leave for each two-week pay period. We are also able to allow administrative leave for some training related activities such as meeting with dissertation committees, dissertation defenses, and interviews for VA fellowships. We are often able to allow administrative leave for some other activities as well, but this will have to be approved on an individual basis.
Training Calendar
Our training year begins on the fourth Monday of August and is built around three trimesters of four months each. Each intern will complete a major rotation in General Mental Health, PTSD Clinical Team, or Neuropsychology. Major rotations may be assigned for two or for all three trimesters. Major rotations are generally expected to take up the equivalent of two days each week, though an intern may sometimes focus his or her clinical work exclusively on their major rotation for a trimester. Minor rotations will be arranged according to the interests, abilities, and training needs of the interns, as well as the training capacity of the minor rotations. Minor rotations will typically be assigned for one or two trimesters and take up the equivalent of two days per week. Major rotation areas will also be available as minor rotations, though the experience offered as a minor rotation will obviously be less in-depth. Our goal is to allow flexibility in building each intern’s training schedule so that we can provide the most useful training experiences for each student.

Rotations
**General Mental Health Team (GMH):** The General Mental Health Team consists of four psychologists, three social workers, a marriage and family therapist, four psychiatrists, and four nurses. The GMH Team serves a broad array of Veterans with a wide variety of presenting problems. Our GMH unit provides interns the opportunity to participate in an integrated, interdisciplinary environment of care in which teams of mental health professionals work together, in partnership with our Veterans, to reach mutually agreed upon goals. Core experiences will include individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, psychological assessment, differential diagnosis, and consultation with medical providers. The GMH team is committed to providing evidence based psychotherapy. Options for training in evidence based psychotherapy may include Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE). Training in mindfulness and self-compassion approaches is also available. There is also an option of receiving training in brief psychological interventions and consultation on the Hospice Palliative Care Unit. Palliative care is a multidisciplinary approach to specialized medical care for people with life-limiting illnesses. It focuses on offering relief from symptoms, pain, physical stress, and mental stress at any stage of illness in a manner that honors the person’s choices or those of his or her health care surrogates. The Hospice Palliative Care Unit (HPU) provides inpatient care in a home-like environment for Veterans who are experiencing illnesses with a high risk of mortality and who have elected to limit life-sustaining interventions such as cardiac resuscitation. The psychologist and intern serve the Veteran, family members (defined as Veteran’s support system), and the HPU team. GMH is a dynamic team of caring, highly motivated professionals who are committed to providing effective, evidence-based, Veteran-
centered mental health care. Interns will broaden their assessment and therapy skills as well as develop strong skills in interdisciplinary collaboration. This is a *Major or Minor Rotation.*

**Supervisors: Amelia Anthony, PhD and Jenny Bivona, PhD**

**PTSD Clinical Team (PCT):** Services in the PTSD Clinical Team are intended primarily for outpatient Veterans who have experienced combat-related and/or military sexual trauma (MST). Core experiences will include participation in team meetings, integrative clinical assessment, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, individual psychotherapy, and group psychotherapy including co-leading psychoeducational and evidence-based therapy (EPT) groups. A core component of this rotation is providing EBTs, as providers in this clinic offer Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). In addition to an emphasis on initial evaluation and individual therapy, a variety of options for facilitating or co-facilitating group psychotherapies will be available, including CPT, CBT-I, ACT, DBT skills, anger management, and process support groups. An additional option available to interns on this rotation is working with Veterans dually diagnosed with PTSD and one or more concurrent substance use disorders. Relative amount of training in EBPs in individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapies, and individual or group psychotherapy for dually diagnosed Veterans will be tailored to the interests of the intern in addition to the needs of the PTSD clinical team. This is a *Major or Minor Rotation.* **Supervisor: Hilary Casner, PhD**

**Neuropsychology:** Neuropsychology is largely a diagnostic and consultative service, though we are expanding therapeutic and rehabilitative offerings. Most assessments are provided on an outpatient basis, with limited opportunities for inpatient assessment also available. Typical referral questions include assessment of traumatic brain injury, differential diagnosis of dementias, and assessing relative contributions of behavioral and organic etiologies in impaired patients. Patients often present with complex problems and etiologies. Working closely with the supervising neuropsychologist, interns will learn to carry out neuropsychological assessments from start to finish. This begins with evaluating and refining referral questions from providers in Mental Health, Primary Care, Neurology, Speech and Language Pathology, and Inpatient Medicine, as well as programs such as the Caregiver Support Program. The assessment process continues with gathering and evaluating historical and diagnostic information from medical charts and interviews and tailoring test batteries to address the specific patient’s level of functioning and relevant differential diagnoses. Interns will achieve mastery in administration and scoring of tests and also in interpretation of test data. Writing neuropsychological reports that are informative and useful to both referring providers and patients will be a major emphasis of training. Interns will also provide feedback to the patients they assess and often to their families, an important and clinically sensitive task that often
determines the final utility of the neuropsychological assessment. Interns will have the opportunity to co-lead a TBI Cognitive Rehabilitation Group with the supervising neuropsychologist and a speech pathologist. Interns may also have the opportunity to co-lead the following planned groups with the supervising neuropsychologist: TBI and PTSD, CBT for ADHD, Memory Skills Group, and Caregiver Support Group. Neuropsychological Assessment is available as a **Major or Minor Rotation.** Supervisors: James Fuendeling, PhD and Christi Houston, PsyD

**Substance Use Disorders:** In prior years, the Substance Abuse Clinic/PTSD Clinical Team (SAC/PCT) rotation has provided interns the opportunity to work with Veterans presenting for treatment of one or more substance use disorders (SUD) or comorbid SUDs and PTSD under the supervision of Hilary Casner, Ph.D. Interns have had the opportunity to provide individual and group psychotherapies such as Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Insomnia, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy. Other service modalities provided in SAC/PCT include 12-step facilitated, psychoeducation, and vocational rehabilitation groups. On August 20, 2018, VHSO opened the Leroy Pond Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) in its own building nearby to Mental Health. The SAC Intensive Outpatient Program and residential treatment for comorbid SUD and other diagnoses are now housed at the RRTP. The Internship Training Committee is working with RRTP staff to design a minor rotation located on-site in the RRTP. We are excited about this opportunity and should be able to provide more information by interview season. In the event that a minor in RRTP cannot be developed in time for the 2019-2020 intern class, Dr. Casner will continue to offer the SAC/PCT integrated minor rotation. This is a **Minor Rotation.** Supervisor: TBD

**Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)/Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM):** Located in an office complex a few blocks from the medical center, this well-regarded program will allow the intern to see the paradigm of recovery in action. The intern will apply recovery principles to clinical care through diverse experiences with Veterans with serious mental illnesses. The intern may work as a “recovery advisor” for several (3-5) Veterans, a role that entails completing an initial assessment as well as working collaboratively with Veterans and other providers to develop and implement a recovery plan for each Veteran. The intern will meet regularly with these Veterans for individual therapy and ongoing support related to recovery goals as needed. These regular meetings may take place in an office setting as well as in the community and/or Veteran’s place of residence. In addition, the intern will gain experience providing recovery-oriented group treatment to this population, including co-facilitating a community integration group and a recovery-oriented transition group that provides education and support to individuals transitioning from the inpatient setting. The intern will be invited to assist in program evaluation and outcomes activities related to the
system-wide implementation of recovery. The intern will also have the unique opportunity to take an active role in the Peer Support Program and the Veteran Mental Health Consumer Council. While a psychologist is not assigned to PRRC/MHICM at this point, senior interdisciplinary staff will work alongside the intern, readily available for urgent needs, and the psychologist supervisor for this rotation will be immediately available by phone. This rotation will only be available later in the training year to interns who demonstrate appropriate clinical maturity. This is a **Minor Rotation. Supervisor: James Fuendeling, PhD**

**Other Supervised Training Experiences**
Any roles that are appropriate to psychologists in professional practice are appropriate training activities during the internship. Specifically, these include assessment, interviewing, psychotherapy, consultation, administration, research, program development, and training. While not all of these experiences may necessarily be gained during the internship, the majority can be gained over the course of the internship through rotation assignments and psychotherapy and assessment casework. Depending on interns’ interests, other training experiences may be arranged and formally added to interns’ training plans in addition to their major and minor clinical rotations. As the VHSO psychology staff expands, we also continue working to develop new, formal training opportunities for our interns, including additional minor rotations.

**Supervision**
Supervision is provided both formally and informally during the internship year. Supervision is a key component in the intern’s training experiences, and is often the difference between merely doing clinical work versus learning and growing in one’s professional role. The feedback, guidance, and sounding board provided by a good supervisor are among the most valuable resources a trainee can have in facilitating their development. In keeping with APA and APPIC standards, a minimum of four hours of formal, face to face supervision is scheduled each week. Additional hours are frequently accumulated and logged through informal or extra scheduled time. Providing supervision is also a core professional skill that interns will need as they move forward in their own careers. Thus, learning to provide supervision is also part of the internship experience.

**Individual Supervision:** Interns will have a minimum of one hour of individual supervision with a licensed psychologist scheduled each week for each rotation. Typically this will be one hour for their major rotation and one hour for their minor rotation. If interns are completing an additional clinical experience outside of their regular rotations (e.g., an intern with rotations in Neuropsychology and PTSD may also have a long term therapy case in General Mental Health), they will receive additional supervision for that experience.
Group Supervision: The interns will meet for two hours of group supervision every Thursday morning. This time may be used to discuss clinical issues of interest to all the interns, critical events that have occurred in one of the intern’s rotations, or group discussion of a particular case. Group supervision will also provide training in how to present patients in brief to frame clinical consultation and discussion. Faculty supervisors will rotate roughly every trimester, allowing the interns to experience different styles of group supervision and exposing them to a variety of faculty in this setting.

Training in Supervision: Training in supervision is provided partly through a monthly seminar series in supervision that will run for half the year. This may include faculty presentations on major topics in supervision, readings, group discussion, practice or role playing, and peer supervision. Each intern will also accompany at VHSO psychologist in their role as outside consultant to the local Vet Center for one trimester. During that trimester, the intern will accompany the psychologist to the Fayetteville Vet Center and provide consultation to the mental health and readjustment counselors at the Vet Center. In this role they will gain experience in tailoring advice and supervision to other mental health professionals based on particular cases and the other professionals’ competencies and needs.

Didactics

Formal Didactic Sessions: Clinical education includes formal weekly didactic sessions. These sessions are scheduled for two hours every week with a formal presentation and discussion. Didactic topics will include various subjects in evidence based therapies, assessment, culture and diversity, and professional and medical issues. Presenters will include psychology faculty, other medical center staff, and some outside presenters drawn from the University of Arkansas and the surrounding community. Other mental health staff are invited and encouraged to attend to promote a collegial and training oriented environment.

Special Seminars: Two particular topics, Cultural and Individual Diversity and Supervision, will be the subject of monthly seminars. Each of these special topic seminars will run for approximately half the training year.

Journal Club: Interns will have a monthly journal club meeting in which an intern will present an article for discussion. They will also invite a faculty member to attend as a discussant.

Intern Presentations: The training schedule includes slots for approximately a dozen presentations by interns. Each intern can expect to give three or four presentations. Topics will be a combination of clinical case presentations and research presentations. We expect that
interns will present on their dissertation research, but other topics are possible as well. These presentations can provide a valuable opportunity to practice conference presentations or job talks, as well as providing a platform for interns to explore other topics of particular interest to them.

**Accreditation Status**

The psychology internship at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO) began training our first class of interns in the fall of 2015. In July of 2018, we were granted APA accreditation with our next site visit scheduled for 2028. We are also an APPIC member site.

It is our intention to operate a psychology internship that provides quality generalist training in health service psychology and prepares interns for postdoctoral fellowships or entry level positions throughout the field and especially in the VA. While we do not offer a Division 40 specialty internship in neuropsychology, we are proud of our track record placing interns in accredited neuropsychology fellowships following internship. Our interns have also had success pursuing specialty fellowships in PTSD treatment and in health psychology.

Questions regarding the program’s accreditation status should be directed to the APA Commission on Accreditation.

- Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
- American Psychological Association
- 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
- Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org

**Application to VHSO Doctoral Psychology Internship**

**Procedures**

The VHSO Psychology Internship participates in the APPIC Internship Matching Program (the Match), and complies with the policies and rules of the Match. Application to the VHSO Psychology Internship can only be made with the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship Online (AAPI Online). Please refer to the APPIC web site at [www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org) for information on completing the AAPI Online and registering for the Match. This internship abides by the APPIC policy that no person at the training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from an intern applicant. Internship applicants must be enrolled in an eligible doctoral program that requires internship training and must expect to complete practicum experience by the start of internship. We invite applications from doctoral students in clinical psychology, counseling psychology, combined clinical/counseling psychology, psychological clinical science, or accredited respecialization programs.
The VHSO is an equal opportunity training program, and we are constantly seeking to increase the diversity of our trainees and faculty. We believe that our field is best served when it draws on the richness of a wide range of cultures, subcultures, personal characteristics, and theoretical perspectives. Diversity is inherent in all aspects of human relations, and we are committed to the ideal that recognizing and respecting our diversity improves our ability to provide quality training and clinical services as well as facilitating personal and professional growth. Applicant screening and selection is merit based, with no preference based on age, sex, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual or gender orientation, political affiliation, or disability status. Individuals of diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply and share their perspectives with the patients and staff.

We will consider all applications for the 2019-2020 training year that are received by or on November 16, 2018. Applicants should identify in their application material the major rotation or rotations (PTSD, General Mental Health, or Neuropsychology) in which they are most interested. This information is used to help us arrange interviews with the most appropriate internship faculty, and should not be viewed as a solicitation of ranking information. All eligible applications will be reviewed by multiple members of the Internship Training Committee. We anticipate conducting an on-site interview day, most likely in mid-December. Depending on the number of applicants we wish to interview, we may schedule a second on-site interview day, likely in January. Applicants whom we intend to interview will be notified of the exact date(s) as soon as the schedule is finalized. We will also conduct telephone interviews for applicants who cannot or choose not to attend in-person interviews.

In order to apply for the VHSO Psychology Internship, you should:

- Register for the APPIC Match through National Matching Services.
- Complete the AAPI Online, including a cover letter, three letters of recommendation, a curriculum vita, and graduate transcripts.
- Inclusion of a psychological evaluation report is strongly preferred, particularly for applicants interested in a major rotation in neuropsychology. All patient identifiers should be scrubbed from this report before submission.
- Include a description of your rotation preferences or interests and your interest in the Psychology Internship at VHSO in your cover letter to the Internship Training Director.
- Ensure that all application materials reach us by November 16, 2018.

For questions about the AAPI Online or APPIC Match, please contact APPIC directly at (202) 347-0022, or see their webpage at www.appic.org for more information.
Requirements
There are a number of requirements that applicants must fulfill prior to beginning internship. These requirements are common across all VA training programs. The following list is intended as a guide and may not be exhaustive. Applicants are encouraged to consult the source document at this site: https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp if they have any questions or concerns about their eligibility.

- Doctoral student in good standing at an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited graduate program in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined psychology or at a Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited program in Clinical Science. Persons with a doctorate in another area of psychology who meet the APA or CPA criteria for respecialization training in Clinical, Counseling, or Combined Psychology are also eligible.
- Approved for internship status by graduate program training director.
- U.S. citizenship. We are unable to consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U.S. citizen. Verification of citizenship is required following selection. All interns must complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning VA training.
- A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit https://www.sss.gov/. Exceptions can be granted only by the VA Office of Human Resources Management; exceptions are very rarely granted.
- Interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. Please find additional information about the required background checks at the following website: http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html
- To comply with federal and VA rules and provide interns with liability protection, a current and valid Academic Affiliation Agreement between VA and the sponsoring doctoral program must be on file before the intern can be appointed. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs already have an agreement on file. More information is available at http://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp (see section on psychology internships).
- VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns are not required to be tested prior to beginning work, but once on staff they are subject to random selection for testing on the same basis as other employees. You will be asked to sign a form acknowledging that you are aware of this
practice. See the section on “additional on-boarding forms” below. A positive drug screen at VHSO does not result in automatic dismissal. It will likely lead to a process of required counseling and rehabilitation. A positive drug test may also result in suspension of clinical activities that would make it difficult for an intern to complete the required duties and clinical hours necessary for successful completion of the internship.

- To streamline on-boarding of interns, the Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at your doctoral program must complete and sign this letter. Your VA appointment cannot be finalized until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp
  - Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. Annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine, and annual influenza vaccine are required. If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
  - Primary source verification of all prior education and training is certified via the TQCVL.

- Additional on-boarding forms will be required prior to actually entering VA employment as an intern. These include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). The general federal versions of these documents and others are available online for review at https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp. The versions used at VHSO may vary slightly from the general versions.

- Falsifying any of these documents or information will be grounds for dismissal from the internship.

Please direct questions about the VHSO’s internship or application process to:

James Fuendeling, PhD
Psychology Service, 116A
1100 North College Ave, Bldg. 44
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479) 443-4301 or (800) 691-8387, ext. 67515
James.Fuendeling@va.gov
Applicants and prospective applicants are also invited to contact our current interns to discuss their experiences and perspective on the internship. They can be reached via their office phone at (479) 443-4301 x63079 or (800) 691-8387, ext. 63079.

**Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks**

Established in 1932, VHSO is a comprehensive, acute care facility that includes a 73 bed hospital, primary care clinics, and diverse outpatient clinics including optometry, dentistry, audiology, speech pathology, and—of course—mental health. In 2013, we opened a new clinical addition that allows us to provide a full continuum of patient-centered care through our primary and specialty care clinics in one location. VHSO also includes Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCS) in Fort Smith, AR; Harrison, AR; Ozark, AR; Mt Vernon, MO; Branson, MO; and Jay, OK. We serve Veterans and their families throughout northwestern Arkansas, southwestern Missouri, and northwestern Oklahoma. Our population is largely rural. Diversity in our patient population is enhanced by a high local density of Fortune 500 companies, the University of Arkansas, and Northwest Arkansas’ status as a top retirement location. All of these factors attract Veterans who are not originally from the area and enhance the cultural, ethnic, and educational diversity of our patient population. At VHSO, we are proud of our culture of excellence in care. The facility has recently won VA’s Robert W. Carey Award for Excellence and the Arkansas Governor’s Quality Award. Our programs consistently maintain the highest levels of accreditation (including Joint Commission and CARF). We also have multiple academic affiliations and training programs, including residency programs operated jointly with University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Within mental health, we have social work and physician assistant interns, practicum students in clinical psychology, and psychiatry residents, as well as psychology interns.

**Training Faculty**

**Amelia Anthony, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 1990.** Licensed in 1991, Dr. Anthony specializes in the treatment of PTSD, depression, anxiety disorders, and phase of life issues, utilizing a variety of evidence-based therapies, as well as psychodynamic, mindfulness, and self-compassion approaches. Dr. Anthony also specializes in teaching mindfulness skills and compassion meditation to Veterans and staff, and has facilitated groups to address combat trauma, women’s sexual trauma, anxiety disorders, emotional resilience, mindfulness skills, and social skills training for persons with serious mental illness.

**Jenny Bivona, PhD., Clinical Psychology, University of North Texas, 2008.** Licensed in 2010, Dr. Bivona specializes in provision of several evidence-based therapies such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), particularly when provided in a group psychotherapy setting. She
is the Local Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator and is a VA Regional Trainer for Motivational Interviewing.

**Hilary Casner, PhD., Clinical Psychology, University of Arkansas, 2013.** Licensed in 2015. Dr. Casner specializes in treatment for combat-related trauma, military sexual trauma, and substance use disorders. She serves as a member of the Internal Review Board for the Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System, of which VHSO is a part.

**James Fuendeling, PhD., Clinical Psychology, Michigan State University, 1998.** Licensed in 2001. Dr. Fuendeling is a neuropsychologist and Training Director for the Psychology Internship. He also has interests in personality and interpersonal relationships, particularly attachment theory. He has previously served as faculty at University of Arkansas and served a five-year term as a member of the Arkansas Psychology Board.

**Christi Houston, PsyD., Clinical Psychology, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, 2005.** Licensed in 2006, Dr. Houston is a neuropsychologist who provides adult and geriatric neuropsychological assessment services as well as neuropsychological rehabilitation services. Dr. Houston has also been trained in evidence-based therapies for depression and PTSD. She also has an interest in diagnostic and personality assessment.

**Terri Miller, PhD., Clinical Psychology, University of Kentucky, 1997.** Licensed in 2000. Dr. Miller currently serves as a psychologist in Compensation and Pension and in General Mental Health. She specializes in psychological assessment. Special interests include cultural competence and community education regarding behavioral health issues.

**Adjunct Faculty**

**Tammy Brazeal, PhD, ABPP, Clinical Psychology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1998.** Licensed in 1999. Dr. Brazeal works out of our Mt. Vernon, Missouri Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), providing psychological services to disabled rural Veterans through the Home-Based Primary Care program. Dr. Brazeal specializes in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and has numerous areas of professional interest.

**Leslie Landrum, MD, FACP, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences 1989; residency in Internal Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 1992.** Licensed in 1989. Dr. Landrum is the Medical Director of the VHSO Hospice and Palliative Care Unit. Interests include palliative and end-of-life care.
Brian Moore, MSW, LCSW, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1996. Licensed since 1999, Mr. Moore is the Program Coordinator of VHSO’s MHICM, PRRC, and RANGE programs as well as Acting Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health.

Living in Northwest Arkansas

Fayetteville, Arkansas is a city of about 80,000 in the Boston Mountains region of the Ozarks. It is part of the Northwest Arkansas corridor, which has a population of about a quarter million. Fayetteville is consistently ranked as one of the best college towns in America and one of America’s best places to live. Fayetteville is also frequently featured in rankings of the least expensive places to live in America. We benefit from low housing costs and overall cost of living, while still enjoying educational and recreational opportunities well beyond expectations for a city of our size. There is a variety of reasonably priced rental housing near the medical center, meaning interns don’t have to spend much time commuting. Outside of work, we have an entertainment district that includes several small music venues in downtown Fayetteville. The Walton Arts Center and nearby Arkansas Music Pavilion attract national touring acts, Broadway musicals, and national caliber jazz and classical music. We are also near a true national treasure, the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and the recently opened Amazeum hands-on discovery museum. Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas are also growing centers for local food and craft brewing movements, and our downtown Farmer’s Market was recently named one of the best in the entire country! Outdoor recreation begins with the growing regional trail system that allows bicycling and walking on dedicated trails throughout the region. Numerous state parks and the Ozark Highland Trail system also offer extensive camping and hiking opportunities. A variety of water sports are within easy reach, including white water rafting and kayaking on the Mulberry River and the Buffalo River (America’s first National River), as well as world-class trout fishing in the tail waters of the Beaver Lake and Bull Shoals Lake dams on the White River. Beaver Lake, with over two hundred miles of shoreline and numerous state parks and boat ramps, can be reached in twenty minutes from the medical center. Many of our staff have very active lives outside of work and will be happy to share their favorite recreational and scenic sites, restaurants, museums, and cultural events.
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:

The VHSO’s Psychology Internship offers a full time, one year internship. It is open to US citizens who are currently enrolled in accredited doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, combined clinical/counseling psychology, or in psychological clinical science. Our overarching goal is to prepare interns for entry level employment or further specialized training. We emphasize a generalist approach to training while also offering the opportunity to emphasize PTSD treatment, General Mental Health, or Neuropsychology through the intern’s choice of major rotation. Obviously, we emphasize treatment of adults who are veterans of the US uniformed services. We enjoy a collegial atmosphere and emphasize a flexible, individualized approach to training. It is not unusual for interns to adjust their choices of minor rotations as the training year progresses, reflecting development in their interests and skills during the internship year.

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 | N | Y | Amount: |
| Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours  | N | Y | Amount: |

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

We do not use minimum criteria for number of hours or cases. We do prefer more supervised clinical experience, rather than less, but we are aware that there are local and individual differences in how hours are counted that can affect totals. We also recognize that there can be value in experiences (e.g., work experience or experience at the master’s level) that may not be counted under practicum hours on the AAPI. Therefore, we prefer to be flexible about applicants’ total hours.
Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns: $26,166
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns: N/A  We do not have half time internship positions.

Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? Yes  No
If access to medical insurance is provided

Trainee contribution to cost required? Yes  No
Coverage of family member(s) available? Yes  No
Coverage of legally married partner available? Yes  No
Coverage of domestic partner available? Yes  No

Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time off (PTO and/or Vacation): approximately 104 hours

Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave: approximately 104 hours—4 hrs per 2 week pay period

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  No

Other Benefits (please describe): We allow Authorized Absence for interns to participate in professionally relevant activities, such as presenting at conferences, defending their dissertation, and interviewing for postdoctoral fellowships, without using their Annual Leave. Term life insurance is also available.
### Initial Post-Internship Positions
(Aggregated Tally for Preceding 3 cohorts)

**Date Range (e.g. 2015-2018):**

| Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts: | 9 |
| Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree | 0 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-doctoral residency position</th>
<th>Employed position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community mental health center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federally qualified health center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent primary care facility/clinic</td>
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<td>University counseling center</td>
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<td>Veterans Affairs medical center</td>
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<td>Military health center</td>
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<td>Changed to another field</td>
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