

Updated: August 22, 2016



PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Fargo VA Health Care System
2101 North Elm St.
Fargo, ND 58102
800-410-9723 ext. 3150
<http://www.fargo.va.gov/>



MATCH Number: 220711
Applications Due: November 18th, 2016

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The doctoral internship program in Psychology at the Fargo VAHCS is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The next site visit will be during the academic year 2021.

Questions related to our accreditation status can also be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
1-800-374-2721
<http://www.apa.org/education/grad/program-accreditation.aspx>

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our program:

1. Doctoral student in an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited Clinical or Counseling Psychology program, or in an APA or CPA approved respecialization training program in Clinical or Counseling Psychology
2. Approval for internship status by graduate program training director
3. A minimum of 250 direct intervention and 50 direct assessment hours of supervised graduate level pre-internship practicum experience
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 and background checks. Match result and selection decision are contingent upon passing these screens
7. As are other employees, matched interns are subject to random selection for drug screening exams once on staff

If you have more specific questions regarding eligibility requirements, including drug testing and background checks, please refer to the OPM website (<https://www.opm.gov/>).

Selection and Interview Process

A selection committee comprised of those involved in training reviews applications, with a focus on goodness of fit between intern goals and facility training opportunities. The VA Health Care System in which our training program resides is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our training program is committed to ensuring a range of diversity among trainees, and we select candidates representing diverse backgrounds. All things being equal, consideration is given to applicants representing elements of diversity, including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, social economic status, and military service. These factors may be indicated on your application (please see below under Application Procedures).

A subgroup of applicants are offered in-person interviews on select Mondays in January to allow an opportunity to learn more about our training site. Phone interviews are offered for individuals unable to make an in-person visit. We adhere to guidelines established by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and follow match policies. Our internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at our training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant. **The Fargo VA Health Care System's Match Number is 220711.** Applicants must obtain an Applicant Agreement Package from NMS and register for the Match in order to be eligible to match to our internship programs. You can request an Applicant Agreement Package from NMS through the Matching Program web site or by contacting NMS.

Application Procedures

Complete the [APPIC](#) online AAPI and designate our program match number. We request three letters of recommendation, with at least one being from someone familiar with your academic work. Submit no more than four letters. Should you choose, you may also identify representation with an element of diversity (please see Selection and Interview Process above). All application materials must be submitted through the online AAPI and received by **November 18th**.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the application process can be addressed to:

Jessica Gustin, Ph.D.
Director of Training, Psychology
Fargo VA Healthcare System
2101 North Elm St
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: 1-800-410-9723 ext. 3125
Jessica.Gustin@va.gov

PSYCHOLOGY SETTING

The Fargo VA Health Care System (VAHCS) is a general medical and surgery facility serving a Veteran population of more than 89,000 from North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, and northeastern South Dakota since 1929. The center provides primary and secondary medical, surgical, psychiatric inpatient care, primary and specialized outpatient care, and rehabilitative care. Tertiary care is referred to the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. The center operates ten community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in primarily highly rural locations (i.e., Bemidji, Bismarck, Dickinson, Fergus Falls, Grafton, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, Devils Lake, and Williston). The Health Care System maintains an active research program and it supports residents in Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry.

The hospital has 71 facility beds, 50 of which are in the Community Living Center (long term care unit for those with extended rehabilitation needs). In Fiscal Year 2014, there were 1,352 Veterans seen on an inpatient basis, and 33,336 seen for outpatient services. Roughly 91% of Veterans served at the Fargo VA are male; 54% are 65 years of age or older and an additional 18% are between the ages of 55 and 64.

The majority of Veterans served by the Fargo VAHCS and surrounding CBOC's reside in rural or highly rural areas (74%). We are committed to providing quality, innovative services to our Veterans in rural communities. Psychology has greatly expanded tele-medicine services, including group therapies. Assessment, therapy, and consultation services are also available to those in rural communities via Home Based Primary Care up to a distance of 50 miles from Fargo. Additionally, most CBOC sites have a Mental Health staff member on site.

Psychology Service is integrated within the Mental Health Service Line, which also consists of Psychiatry, Pharmacy, Social Work, and the Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Psychology Service includes 14 doctoral Psychologists, one bachelor's level Psychology Technician, and two Peer Support Specialists. Psychologists have diverse theoretical orientations, clinical specialties, and interests. Several Psychologists specialize in co-occurring PTSD and Substance Use, Health Psychology, and Home Based Primary Care. They also serve on the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, PTSD Clinical Team, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Social Work Service, Pain Management Committee, Primary Care Mental Health Clinic, and the Specialty Mental Health Clinic. Psychologists are exclusively responsible for completing all compensation and pension examinations and Psychology services are highly valued across the Center. Staff has been able to participate on committees in their respective areas of interest. Psychologists enjoy a very supportive and enjoyable work environment; and typically report much satisfaction with their VA careers.

Ongoing training is a priority. In-house training is consistently provided on a range of topics (i.e., ethics, updated and innovative assessment measures, cultural diversity). Psychologists frequently attend national and regional trainings and conferences related to their individual areas of interest. The majority of psychologists have attended national VA training in Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, or Motivational Interviewing and Modified Problem Solving Therapy. Psychologists participate in monthly conference calls addressing the successful utilization of empirically supported treatments, continually review current literature, and subsequently disseminate findings to other staff members. Psychology staff have presented for Psychiatry Grand Rounds on topics such as the Recovery Treatment Model, Evidence-Based Therapies for PTSD, Treatment of OIF/OEF Veterans, and PTSD and Substance Use.

PROGRAM AIMS AND COMPETENCIES

Fargo VAHCS Psychology Doctoral Internship Aims:

Our internship program aims to provide exceptional training while adhering to a scholar-practitioner model. Training philosophy focuses on breadth of clinical skills, while emphasizing quality training in rural mental health care and telepsychology, using telecommunication technology in providing a variety of psychological services to Veterans spanning three states. We provide excellent training in cognitive and personality psychological assessment, as well as interdisciplinary consultation. Our aims also focus on scholarly knowledge and consideration of research as it guides clinical practice. Consistent with this approach, we focus on the effective utilization of empirically supported treatments. We emphasize sensitivity to individual differences and diversity, always considering the many factors influencing a person's psychological development, including cultural, social and political factors. As such, we value attracting a diverse group of interns and continually maintain awareness of individual and cultural diversity.

Training is the primary focus of internship programming at the Fargo VA and psychology staff are very committed to providing superior training tailored to match each intern's goals and interests. Our internship program is extremely collaborative in nature, and involves frequent consultation among interns and psychology staff. Interns choose their own rotation placements in order to fulfill their individual training interests and needs, and may also choose from a variety of potential adjunctive rotations to further specialize their training experience. We pride ourselves on helping interns guide their professional development.

Consistent with these training aims, interns are expected to demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- Research – Interns will demonstrate independent ability to critically evaluate and disseminate research, or demonstrate ability to complete other scholarly activities (e.g., case conferences, presentations, publications) at a local, regional, or national level.
- Ethical and legal standards- Interns will be knowledgeable of and act in accordance with the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct; relevant laws, regulations, rules, and policies governing health service psychology; and relevant professional standards and guidelines. They will recognize ethical dilemmas and apply ethical decision-making processes, as well as conduct themselves in an ethical manner in all professional activities.
- Individual and cultural diversity – Interns will demonstrate competency in understanding how their own personal and cultural history may affect how they interact with those different from themselves. They will be familiar of the current theoretical and empirical knowledge base as it relates to diversity, integrate awareness and knowledge of individual and cultural differences in the conduct of professional roles, and independently apply knowledge in working effectively with a range of diverse individuals and groups.
- Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors – Interns will behave in ways that reflect the values and attitudes of psychology, demonstrating a maturing professional identity and sense of self as a “psychologist.” They will engage in self-reflection, and be open and responsive to feedback and supervision. Interns will respond professionally across increasingly complex situations, demonstrating a greater degree of independence. They will develop a professional identity based upon generalist abilities and will be prepared to begin work at the post-doctoral level. They will be aware of any areas for further development and be able to formulate appropriate career development plans.
- Communication and interpersonal skills – Interns will demonstrate effective interpersonal skills and develop and maintain successful relationships with a wide range of individuals. They will effectively produce and comprehend oral, nonverbal, and written communications.
- Assessment – Interns will develop competence in conducting psychological evaluation and assessment of adults with a variety of diagnostic concerns. An emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and administration/interpretation of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality and cognitive abilities. Interns will effectively select and apply assessment methods that draw from empirical literature. They will collect relevant data using multiple sources and methods, and effectively interpret assessment results to inform case conceptualization, classification, and recommendations. They will provide feedback and testing findings in an accurate and effective manner.
- Intervention – Interns will effectively develop evidence-based intervention plans and implement interventions informed by current scientific literature. They will apply relevant research literature to clinical decision making, modify and adapt evidence-based approaches as appropriate, and evaluate intervention effectiveness. They will successfully establish and maintain effective relationships with the recipients of psychological services.

- Supervision – Interns will demonstrate knowledge of supervision models and practices. They will apply this knowledge in direct or simulated practice with psychology trainees, or other health professionals.
- Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skill – Interns will directly collaborate with those from other disciplines. They will demonstrate knowledge and respect for the roles and perspectives of other professions. Interns will develop competence in providing effective consultation, feedback, and translation of psychological principles to colleagues across disciplines.

The following is a sample of training activities to facilitate previously mentioned aims and competencies:

Individual, Group, and Peer Supervision – In addition to individual supervision with primary supervisors, rotation supervisors, and the training director, interns will also be allocated one hour of weekly peer supervision to foster peer learning and depth of training. At minimum, four hours of combined individual and group supervision will be provided (no less than two hours individual supervision weekly). Breadth of supervision will be facilitated by assigning supervisors varying in the duration of licensure, as well as clinical interests and theoretical orientation. Interns will complete and review self-report forms and consistently discuss professional development during individual, group, and peer supervision to become aware of areas for further development. They will also discuss research articles pertaining to clinical assignments, and will work more independently as they progress in training, as evidenced by requiring less corrective feedback during supervision.

Internship Mentor - Interns are encouraged to choose a staff member as a mentor who shares professional interests and is familiar with the internship program. This individual's role is to mentor the intern in his/her career development efforts, assist in formulating training/rotation plans, and to help the intern find the best ways to meet their short and long term training objectives. Should the intern have difficulty with any of the training context (i.e. during a major or adjunctive rotation), the mentor will work collaboratively with the intern and training staff involved to find solutions to difficulties. The mentor cannot be considered completely non-evaluative; although the role is one of mentorship primarily. The extent to which the intern chooses to develop a relationship with and utilize their mentor may vary, individually and over the course of the year.

Weekly Didactic Trainings– Didactic trainings will assist in expanding interns' knowledge of assessment, intervention, consultation and ethical/cultural issues. Trainings will specifically focus on evidenced based care. As an example, interns will receive training on Evidenced Based Assessment, Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD, Seeking Safety protocol for Co-occurring Trauma and Substance Use Disorders, Moral Injury, Motivational Interviewing, evidenced based treatments regarding behavioral health, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

Assessment Clinic – Interns will be required to complete a year-long assessment experience, writing coherent cognitive and personality psychological evaluations that accurately respond to a variety of referral questions. This will include supervision in administering and interpreting a range of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality and cognitive abilities (i.e., MMPI-2, MMPI-2-RF, MCMI-III, WAIS-IV, WMS-IV, RBANS, Stroop, Trails, Wisconsin Card Sorting Test, etc). They will effectively provide feedback to Veterans, families, and other providers. Referral sources include, although are not limited to, psychiatry, neurology, and primary care. Training in assessment will be provided by psychology and neurology staff on topics including ADHD assessment, differential diagnosis of cognitive disorders, and advanced MMPI-2-RF interpretation.

Telepsychology Services - Due to the large number of rural Veterans served by our facility, a significant percentage of our services are provided via telepsychology. Interns will receive formalized telepsychology training and experience, which is incorporated throughout the training year. Upon demonstrating competencies at face to face levels, interns will provide services via our well-developed tele-health program that may include assessment, individual therapy, and group therapy programming.

Grand Rounds Seminars – Didactic training will also be facilitated via our medical affiliation with The University of North Dakota’s Medical School Psychiatry Grand Rounds. Interns will be expected to attend relevant mental health grand rounds presentations, which feature a number of locally recognized providers that present on research, intervention, assessment, and other professional issues.

Intern Presentation– Interns will be asked to present on a clinical/research interest at a grand rounds seminar, local conference, or other relevant venue. Prior internship cohorts have found this to be a very valuable experience, often facilitating excellent opportunities for mental health outreach.

Diversity and Ethics Experiences –Diversity and cultural sensitivity will be continually addressed during supervision and didactic trainings (i.e. seminars on Considerations when Working with LGBTQ clientele; Treatment Considerations with Native American Veterans). Interns will also attend diversity experiences (i.e., Native American smudging ceremonies or sweat lodge in the community, VA Stand Down which provides services to homeless Veterans). Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and diversity issues, as well as ethical matters, will be a focus throughout training.

Interdisciplinary Treatment Team Meetings The Fargo VA utilizes an interdisciplinary treatment team model approach to care. Treatment teams are responsible for a large panel of patients and meet several times per week to better coordinate clinical care. Disciplines present include psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, homeless program and substance abuse program liaisons, peer support specialists, pharmacists, psychologists, and trainees from other disciplines. All interns will be assigned to treatment teams to develop and refine strong consultation skills.

Research– Research and program evaluation is considered an integral part of the training experience. Interns will review scientific literature on a consistent basis, and incorporate considerations during supervision and their clinical duties. They will present on a topic of choice as a group, collaborating in completing a brief research project and sharing findings with Psychology staff.

EVALUATION

Internship programming is developmental and generalist in nature. At the beginning of the year, interns are expected to have entry level competence in research, ethical and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values/ behaviors, communication and interprofessional skill, adult psychological assessment, psychological intervention, supervision, and consultation and interdisciplinary skill. Over the course of training, they will refine these skills in working toward clinical independence. In order to achieve this level of functioning, training will first emphasize breadth of knowledge by completing diverse clinical duties, obtaining more intensive supervision, and attending didactic trainings. Overarching clinical activities will focus on cognitive and personality assessment, provision of empirically supported therapies, and consultation (i.e. participation in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings and Mental Health staff meetings).

Evaluation of progress in meeting both foundational competencies (i.e., understanding of ethics and cultural diversity issues, knowledge of scientific foundations of psychology) and functional competencies (i.e., assessment, intervention, consultation, research) will be measured through a variety of avenues including, but not limited to work samples, hypothetical case studies, and direct assessment. Progress toward goals will be continually evaluated, as well as formally completed following each rotation period. Interns will also review self-evaluation forms with primary rotation supervisors. Functionally, evaluation helps monitor trainees’ readiness for entry to practice. Our minimal levels of achievement for programming are noted below, and are directly linked to our evaluations, corresponding to our aims and competencies.

In order for Interns to maintain good standing in the program they must:

- For the first and second training trimester, obtain ratings of at least a "2" [*Regular supervision required on most straight forward cases/projects*] for all competency items on the Intern Trimester Evaluations, Assessment Clinic Evaluation, and relevant Adjunctive Training Experience Evaluation forms.
- Demonstrate progress in competencies on the Intern Trimester Evaluation, Intern Assessment Clinic Evaluation, and relevant Adjunctive Training Experience Evaluation forms which have not been rated at a "5" or higher [*Little consultation/supervision needed; sound critical thinking/judgment evident overall (intern exit level; postdoc entry level)*].
- By the mid-point of training, successfully complete required items of the *Fargo VAHCS Psychology Test Training Form*, which includes observing, role-playing, and administering assessments under observation
- No items in competency areas will be rated as a "1" (*Substantial supervision required on all cases projects; little to no autonomous judgment; triggers a remediation plan*)
- Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior

In order for Interns to successfully complete the program, they must:

- By the end of the last training period, obtain ratings of at least a "5" [*Little consultation/supervision needed; sound critical thinking/judgment evident overall (intern exit level; postdoc entry level)*] for all items in each competency area on Intern Trimester Evaluation, Intern Assessment Clinic Evaluation, and relevant Adjunctive Training Experience Evaluation forms
- Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior

TRAINING SCHEDULE AND ROTATIONS

During orientation week, interns will meet with the Training Director to plan their training schedule for the upcoming year. Three primary rotations will be selected, as well as a required year-long assessment clinic. Interns may also choose up to two adjunctive rotations to complete throughout the training year. The majority of interns will devote an average of three days time per week to their major rotation, one day to assessment clinic, and the remaining day to didactic and adjunctive trainings. Interns will be given flexibility in choosing rotation schedules; although asked to consider an approach consistent with generalist training. The following are offered as options for major rotations.

Major Rotations

The Mental Health Clinic (General Psychiatry) – The Mental Health Clinic is a large outpatient program averaging approximately 40,000 visits per year. The Clinic staff consists of psychiatrists, addiction counselors, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, psychology technician, peer support specialists, psychologists, and other trainees. Referrals are received from primary care, neurology, dementia care clinic, vocational rehabilitation, and various other entities throughout the VA system. The Clinic provides psychology interns an opportunity to work within an interdisciplinary outpatient setting. Clients are treated for a wide variety of diagnoses, including mood, anxiety, psychotic, personality, and adjustment disorders. A large percentage of clients also present with substance abuse disorders, allowing interns an opportunity to gain experience in treating dual diagnoses. The outpatient clinic provides opportunities for in-person and telepsychology training in a variety of psychological models. Both long-term and brief psychotherapy interventions are utilized in individual therapy and group therapy treatment formats. Interns have the opportunity to receive specialized training in individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, as well as co-lead a variety of groups (e.g., Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Problem Anger Group, Sleep Management Group, and a modified Dialectical Behavior Therapy Group). In addition to the variety of intervention opportunities, cognitive and personality assessment is highly emphasized in the training experience.

The Posttraumatic Stress Recovery (PTSR) Program – The PTSR Program is located within Psychology Services and is the main treatment location for clients with posttraumatic stress disorder or subclinical anxiety symptoms secondary to traumatic life events. This program treats a full range of both civilian and military traumatic events. The most common traumatic events experienced include combat-related life-threatening situations, sexual trauma, natural disasters, and car accidents. Interns in this program would receive specialized training in the assessment and treatment of patients with acute and chronic trauma-related disorders. Through clinical experience and supervision, students can expect to develop a comprehensive understanding of the sequelae of trauma and evidence-based treatment approaches for trauma-related disorders. The majority of clients are seen initially for a pre-therapy/orientation to treatment session designed to provide education on available treatment options and triage clients into the most appropriate service. Many clients are seen via telepsychology, and skills developed on this rotation include: time-limited psychotherapy with emphasis in Cognitive Processing Therapy or Prolonged Exposure, co-leading groups (e.g., Trauma Education, PTSD Family Education Group, Cognitive Processing Therapy Group), diagnosis and assessment of PTSD [including Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) training], and consultation to a team that includes those from other disciplines (i.e., Social Work, Chaplaincy). Interns have significant involvement with PTSD Awareness Month activities, including the PTSD Treatment Team's "Mask Making" project, which allows interested Veterans an exposure opportunity to express their trauma related feelings while painting individual masks. Interns receive training in Moral Injury, and co-facilitate a Moral Injury Group, in addition to opportunities to learn more about innovative treatment involving adaptive disclosure.

Highly Rural Mental Health – The Fargo VA is responsible for nine Community Based Outpatient Clinics that serve an almost exclusively rural and highly rural population. This rotation would emphasize provision of services to Veterans in these outlying communities via tele-health, as well as potential travel up to 50 miles for Home Based Primary Care. Trainees would have an opportunity to provide in-home services (i.e., assessment and intervention) to Veterans residing in rural areas that may otherwise not have access to Psychology services. Interns would also be involved with providing empirically supported treatments as part of our highly successful telepsychology programming, which includes both individual and group therapies. Another unique aspect of this rotation would involve the potential for interns to receive specialized training in rural mental health through collaboration with the University of North Dakota's Rural Psychology in Integrated Care (RPIC) program, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA). Collaboration with their programming would include exciting opportunities for tele-health, as well as more specialized training in meeting dynamic rural needs and integrated primary care. This can include providing stigma reduction consultation in small communities, as well as collaborating with their program in providing public service announcements at local auto races, in order to increase mental health awareness. Finally, exceptional opportunities for research in rural mental health can be facilitated within this rotation.

Behavioral Health and Mental Health Primary Care– This rotation emphasizes development of skills needed to integrate psychological services within interdisciplinary treatment teams in medical settings. Major components of this rotation include brief evaluation and treatment of clinical and health psychology problems; triage decision-making to prioritize service delivery; consultation and collaboration with primary care providers for psychological and medical management; psychological assessment, individual and group psychotherapy, telepsychology services; referral to specialty mental health programs; and coordination of care with the onsite Psychiatrists and Social Workers. Interns have the opportunity to take part in leading empirically based treatment groups on topics such as sleep, pain, and weight management. In addition, Interns will have the opportunity to develop skills in promoting healthy behaviors (i.e. physical activity) and help patients resolve other medically-related problems (i.e. pain management, treatment adherence, coping with illness, and disease management). Specialty training is provided in Motivational Interviewing. Interns also have the opportunity to work as a mental health liaison to a multidisciplinary Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) within primary care, as well as within the Emergency Department. The intern attends weekly team meetings that focus on administrative and clinical issues.

Inpatient Hospitalization and Consultation– Psychology interns participate in multidisciplinary treatment teams focusing on the inpatient psychiatric care of patients with serious mental illness, chronic substance abuse, dementia-related conditions, chronic and acute suicidal risk, and a full range of psychotic disorders. They may also participate in the inpatient care of those on the Community Living Center (CLC), which is a long term care unit for those requiring extended rehabilitation and care following surgery and/or lengthy hospitalizations. Interns assist in direct patient care, lead therapy groups, and contribute to treatment planning. They help patients to better manage their psychiatric illnesses, increase self-efficacy, improve coping skills, and reinforce positive behaviors. Rotation opportunities include, but are not limited to: attending multidisciplinary patient rounds and team meetings; conducting group psychotherapy; providing short-term individual psychotherapy when appropriate; conducting psychological assessments for diagnostic and treatment planning purposes; developing behavioral plans to manage disruptive or unhealthy behaviors; and assisting in coordinating treatment between the inpatient and outpatient service.

In addition to the above major rotations, opportunities to complete minor rotations in the following areas will also be available.

Compensation and Pension Examinations – Psychology staff is solely responsible for completing Mental Health Compensation and Pension Examinations. Interns can choose to receive formalized VA training and supervision in conducting Compensation and Pension Examinations. This training would be especially valuable for those desiring continued employment with the VA system, as well as those with an interest in assessment.

Homelessness – The Fargo VA has received national recognition for its outstanding homeless program that facilitates Veterans’ access to community resources in order to obtain permanent community-based housing. The program offers case management services and assists homeless Veterans in obtaining food, clothing, shelter, transportation, safety, ID cards and medical care. Interns are able to participate in programming and provide consultation to staff.

Substance Abuse Treatment Program –The Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) offers evaluations, individual therapy, continuing care, and intensive outpatient treatment. Interns would be offered an opportunity to provide assessment and intervention services to those with substance use concerns, as well as provide consultation to SATP staff.

Home Based Primary Care – Interns may receive additional experience working with rural and geriatric populations by completing a minor rotation in home based primary care. This opportunity would particularly enhance trainee’s skill in cognitive assessment and interdisciplinary consultation.

Supervision of Practicum Students – While interns will receive four hours of required supervision per VA guidelines, they may also choose to provide supervision to practicum students training at the Fargo VAHCS. This would be in addition to the required supervision by licensed psychologists and would include consultation with the intern’s supervisor regarding the provision of supervision.

Administrative Experience – Interns may shadow the Psychology Service Supervisor. This experience would include attending various meetings within the hospital, involvement in projects and policy, and program development/adjustment.

SUPERVISION

Interns will receive at least 2 hours of individual supervision and at least 2 hours of group supervision per week. All members of the Psychology staff are available for consultation, and interns will be scheduled for regular contact with the Director of Training. Supervision styles and theoretical orientations vary. Supervision includes direct observation, and involves audio recording, role-plays, review of documentation, co-therapy, case presentations, and consultative/supervisory work.

DIDACTICS

Interns will meet for a weekly didactic seminar, where a variety of topics related to program competencies will be reviewed (i.e. personality and cognitive assessment, various professional development issues). Interprofessional training is highly valued. Psychology staff as well as other disciplines ,will present on such topics and some training may span weeks in duration. Case presentations and Psychiatry Grand Rounds (which involves presentations to Physicians, Psychologists, Residents, and other medical staff on specific psychiatric related issues) are additional avenues of didactic training. Interns are themselves expected to present at a topic of expertise at a Grand Rounds or a local university/venue during their training, and are also authorized time to participate in an Interprofessional Journal Club, where they meet with trainees from other mental health disciplines (i.e. Social Work, Psychiatry, Pharmacy) on a bi-weekly basis.

TRAINING TERM

The internship requires a one-year, full-time training commitment beginning in August, with interns averaging 40 hours a week. Interns are entitled to 10 federal holidays and earn sick leave and vacation (annual leave) at a rate of 4 hours per two-week pay period (total of 13 days of each). Interns may also request additional leave (approved absence) to attend trainings, conferences, and/or graduate related activities (these are reviewed as requests arise).

STIPEND, BENEFITS, AND RESOURCES

Current stipend is anticipated to be \$24,014 per year. State and federal income tax and FICA (Social Security) are withheld from interns' salary. The United States Government covers interns for malpractice under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Interns are eligible to receive health, dental and life insurance coverage. Interns may also be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program, and are able to utilize the facility's gym on campus.

All Interns are provided with office space, secured computers, and office supplies. They are given access to Psych Info database and other resources through the medical library. A comprehensive assessment/testing library is updated and maintained by the Psychology Technician.

FARGO-MOORHEAD COMMUNITY

The metropolitan Fargo area has a population of about 200,000 and is located 3 hours away from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Fargo-Moorhead has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, a consistently low crime rate, and very affordable housing. There are three major colleges within a two-mile radius and a warm community that features a wide variety of recreational activities, rich cultural events, and frequent sporting events. Outdoor recreational activities are in abundance. In the summer months activities include, biking, swimming, fishing, golfing, and camping. In the winter months, individuals can enjoy ice fishing, cross-country skiing, sledding, and hockey. The Fargo-Moorhead area is an ideal community where students can gain education and start their careers.

TRAINING STAFF

Feel free to contact staff by email indicated below; they are happy to respond to questions.

Name	Degree	Date	School	Clinical & Research Interest/Expertise	Email
Lindsay Anderson	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2012	University of Colorado and Colorado Springs	Aging/Geropsychology, Long-term care, Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia, Caregiving in Late Life	Lindsay.Anderson5@va.gov
Angela Collins	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2009	University of Nevada-Reno	Anxiety disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Health Psychology, Administration	Angela.Collins3@va.gov
Gillian Freeborn	Clinical Psychology, Psy.D.	2013	Argosy University-Twin Cities	Behavioral Health, Pain Management; Palliative Care	Gillian.Freeborn@va.gov
Adam Guilmino	Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.	2006	University of North Dakota	Recovery Coordinator, Inpatient Psychology	Adam.Guilmino@va.gov
Robert Gulkin	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	1975	University of Memphis	General Clinical Interests, Assessment, Treatment and Diagnosis of Anxiety	Robert.Gulkin@va.gov
Jessica Gustin	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2009	University of South Dakota	Psychology Training, Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	Jessica.Gustin@va.gov
Jodi Johnson	Clinical Psychology, Psy.D.	2015	Minnesota School of Professional Psychology	Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Interdisciplinary Team Process, PTSD and Moral Injury, Psychological Assessment, Training and Supervision	Jodi.Johnson5@va.gov
Casey Lawler	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2006	Washington State University	Health Behavior Change, Evidence-Based Treatments, Cognitive Assessments, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	Casey.Lawler@va.gov
Sandra Mills	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2011	University of North Dakota	Psychological Assessment, Trauma, Addictions, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Strengths Based Approach, Cognitive Behavior Therapy	Sandra.Mills@va.gov
Karl Nelson	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	2003	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Substance Abuse Treatment, Addictive Disorders, Research Activities	Karl.Nelson2@va.gov

Margo Norton	Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.	1998	University of North Dakota	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Post Deployment Mental Health	Margo.Norton@va.gov
Jay Phillippi	Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.	2011	University of North Dakota	Forensic and Psychological Assessment, Compensation and Pension Exams, Recovery Model, Positive/Strengths Based Psychology	Jay.Phillippi@va.gov
Scott Ressler	Clinical Psychology, PsyD	2014	Minnesota School of Professional Psychology	Primary Care Mental Health, Brief Psychotherapy, Psychological Assessment	Scott.Ressler@va.gov