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Psychology Internship Program
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior
Medical College of Georgia



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Message from the Training Directors

The Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center Psychology Internship was formed in 1982 and has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1983. This doctoral internship program is also a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and was formed to provide psychology internship training with a focus on interdisciplinary health care settings. The consortium is currently in the process of becoming two separate internships and this brochure focuses on the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) internship.

With the broader institutional missions of MCG aimed at providing outstanding educational and clinical service programs involving health professionals, biomedical scientists, and educators at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels, this psychology internship has a breadth of training opportunities in interdisciplinary contexts.

Our faculty share a deep commitment to educating our future health care professionals, striving for compassionate and excellent clinical service and advancing science. We are excited to support trainees as they progress to careers of accomplishment and meaning. Integral to our internship training are joint educational and clinical service activities with primary care physicians, psychiatrists and other physician specialists, nurses, social workers, and allied health professionals.



Training Model and Organization

- Training in the implementation of essential practice skills in key field settings
- Training in an empirical approach to practice (fostering attitudes of empiricism and reflection)
- Training in the provision of care for underserved populations and areas

Rotation Organization

The General Practice Rotation: Clinical training sites include MCG, AU Summerville campus, or East Central Regional Hospital. This rotation focuses on opportunities for development of psychological assessment skills and individual and group psychotherapies.

The Integrated Health Psychology Rotation: Clinical training occurs at MCG sites. Located in various inpatient and outpatient medical settings spread across MCG hospital, outpatient clinics, and the MCG Children's Hospital of Georgia, this rotation focuses on acquiring skills that will enable psychology interns to apply fundamental psychological assessment and treatment principles to health care settings with a goal of training interns to function independently in interdisciplinary health care settings.

The Emphasis Track Rotation: One 4-month Emphasis Track rotation is selected prior to entry into the internship program. The Emphasis Track rotations allow interns to experience more focused training opportunities that are consistent with their long-range career interests. At present there are four track choices available at Augusta University.

In addition to the 4-month Emphasis Track rotation, one day of each week for the entire year is devoted to emphasis training within your chosen track, thereby facilitating more depth and continuity in this aspect of your training experience.

EMPHASIS TRACKS

One position available per track

- Child and Family Track: Point of contact Dr. Christopher Drescher (cdrescher@augusta.edu)
- Forensic Track: Point of contact Dr. Holly Tabernik (htabernik@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Chronic Illness Track: Point of contact Dr. Rebecca Jump (rjump@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Integrated Primary Care Track: Point of contact: Dr. Jessica Britt-Thomas (jbritthomas@augusta.edu)

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of 2080 hours of training.
- Minimum of 520 hours of direct clinical services.
- Demonstrated competency in all internship milestones.
- Maintain timesheets that record direct and indirect service hours.
- Participation in at least one Outreach Educational & Prevention Project.
- Completion of a minimum of one research/scholarly project resulting in a publishable written product.
- Demonstrate assessment proficiencies by completion of three comprehensive psychological batteries during the training year. This assessment will include at least two tests designed to measure one or more categories of psychological functioning.



Seminars

The Diagnostic/Treatment Seminar: Application of a “Problem-Based Learning” (PBL) model. The PBL approach to learning employs a clinical case/problem as the vehicle of learning and demands development of clinical/scientific reasoning.

The Psychotherapy Process Seminar: Provides a laboratory to develop skills of empiricism and reflection in the nonparticipant mode of peer supervision. Each intern, with the seminar directors, takes turns presenting a live or video psychotherapy case. Didactics for the seminar focus upon: (a) common factors in psychotherapy; (b) cognitive behavioral therapy, and; (c) therapy termination.

The Professional Issues Seminar: Devoted to didactics and discussions related to the professional development of the Intern. The seminar primarily focuses on the non-therapy aspects of being a psychologist and meets once per month.

Didactic Training

Diagnostic Intake Assessment: During the first rotation, interns are required to demonstrate proficiency in performing a Diagnostic Intake Assessment. Each intern presents a new patient assessment to a supervisor who rates the intern across several domains. Didactic training in personality assessment and diagnostic interview examinations are provided to prepare you for this presentation. This exercise is an opportunity for you to receive instruction and feedback regarding these fundamental skills. Identified growth areas are then integrated into your training plan.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- Faculty committed to training: Over 20 licensed psychologists that serve as supervisors or other training contributors.
- Availability of diverse clinical experiences across multiple interdisciplinary care settings.
- High intern ratings for training experience: ten-year data collected from post-intern graduates indicate consistently high ratings of the quality of the training experience.
- Intern scholarly productivity: interns have protected research time and often present and publish during the internship year.
- Intern success in obtaining postdoctoral positions: interns regularly secure postdoctoral positions and employment in their chosen settings following completion of the internship.
- Diverse career paths: internship graduates have embarked on diverse career paths in settings including academic and VA medical centers, independent practice, graduate schools, primary care psychology, state hospitals, and research.



Didactic Training

Diversity Training Experiences: Diversity is a critical area of competence for psychologists. One of the main goals of our psychology internship is preparing professional psychologists who aspire to greater cultural awareness and humility in their practice. Throughout the training year, the internship embeds cultural diversity in all its training activities. This is accomplished through diversity topics across all seminars, clinical practicum experiences, a yearly diversity workshop, and a review of diagnostic interview and case conceptualization that addresses the pertinent cultural/diversity areas.

Equality Clinic: The Equality Clinic is an all-volunteer service that provides integrated primary care to uninsured/under-insured LGBTQ individuals. Interns may volunteer to participate in this experience and function as part of a large interdisciplinary primary care team. Through the Equality Clinic, interns gain skills in consultation to physicians and patients, rapid assessment, crisis intervention, motivational interviewing and behavioral interventions.

Additional Educational Opportunities

- Departmental Grand Rounds: two sessions per month
- Workshops: half to full-day workshops several times per year
- Four hours weekly dedicated to research/scholarly activity

SUPERVISION

Due to the complexity of internship training and the diverse interests and educational needs of our trainees, the internship provides different categories of supervision.

- **Overall Supervisor:** Responsible for the development of an understanding of the unique educational needs and interests of the intern and to develop and monitor a year-long strategy to maximize the training experience.
- **Rotational Supervisor:** Responsible for establishing and communicating clear educational goals for the rotational/track experience, supervising all clinical/professional activities on the rotation/track, maintaining on-site presence during all intern clinical encounters, verifying the accuracy and timeliness of all clinical documentation, and providing routine verbal and written performance feedback .
- **Case Supervisor:** If special expertise is needed or if the intern has a special interest in working with a faculty person, a Case Supervisor can be added to the intern's supervisory experiences at any time.
- **Mentor:** We encourage, but do not require, the intern to seek a personal mentor relationship with a faculty person that does NOT have an evaluative role with them. This mentor functions as an informal counselor, advisor, role model, and advocate.

HOW TO APPLY

Application Process: We use the APPIC Online Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) that can be found at: <http://appic.org>. Of note, we require one de-identified integrated assessment report to be submitted as supplemental material with your application. The deadline for receipt of your application is November 1. Offers are tendered through the APPIC National Matching program.

Applicant Qualifications: Only applicants from APA-approved doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology with data-based doctoral dissertations will be considered. Interns are expected to have completed at least three years of doctoral study with a minimum number of 400 intervention hours and 40 assessment hours before entering our internship; there may be some leniency with respect to these hours given COVID-19 restraints in training among some graduate programs. Applicants must:

- Complete their master's degree requirements prior to the application deadline (if applicable in their doctoral program)
- Pass comprehensive exams by the ranking deadline
- Have Dissertation Proposal approval by the start of the internship

Emphasis Tracks: Intern applicants are matched according to Emphasis Track interests. This allows interns to accumulate a specific expertise that is consistent with their career interests and enhances their marketability upon graduation.

Interviews: Virtual interviews will be held in January 2025. The format of the interview days includes:

- Orientation of the program sites, faculty, and training experiences
- Individual virtual interviews with faculty
- Non-evaluative meeting with current interns

Requests to virtually meet with specific faculty outside of more formal scheduled interviews are honored whenever possible.



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FAQs

Q: Do you require any supplemental materials as part of your application process?

A: We require one de-identified, integrated assessment report.

Q: When are applications due?

A: November 1st of each year.

Q: How much is the salary?

A: \$34,324 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Q: Will there be an open house?

A: To ensure that there is equity in the application process, we will not be holding an open house. If you elect to come to the area for a visit and would like a tour or to meet with a specific faculty member, please reach out to the Training Director.

Q: I want to talk to someone about specific needs. Is there a way to get connected?

A: We understand that individual needs may play an important role in your decisions around internships. Questions in these areas can be sensitive and sometimes are best handled by talking to a person with lived experience relevant to your identities or life circumstances. If you would like to have a non-evaluative conversation with a specific faculty member, please contact the Training Director and they will connect you.

Q: Are there options for postdoc or employment?

A: There are several options for postdoctoral training experiences that include fellowships in Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology, DBT/ACT/Psychology of Women, Health Psychology/Psych-Oncology, and Forensic Psychology. Many of our current faculty trained at AU-MCG for internship and/or fellowship.

Q: Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application?

A: Direct Contact Intervention hours: 400

Direct Contact Assessment hours: 40

FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-Time Interns	\$34,324
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern	Yes
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Time Off (PTO/vacation)	80
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	80
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 PTO and sick leave?	Yes
Other Benefits	Up to 5 days of authorized professional leave for conferences. Spring break during the first full week of April.

POST-INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

Consortium 2022-2023 Cohort, 2023-2024 Cohort, 2024-2025 Cohort *

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	24	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Employment
Academic teaching		
Hospital/medical center	7	1
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	2	4
Psychiatric facility	2	
Independent practice setting	5	2

*Note: This table reference data related to full consortium as required by CoA reporting requirements. The next table references data for the MCG tracks only.

MCG Interns only 2022-2023 Cohort, 2023-2024 Cohort, 2024-2025 Cohort

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	12	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Employment
Hospital/medical center	5	
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	1	
Psychiatric facility	2	
Independent practice setting	4	