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

Message from the Training Directors



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The Augusta University-Medical College of Georgia (MCG) Psychology Internship was created to provide high-quality psychology internship training with a focus on interdisciplinary health care settings. We train health service psychologists to be leaders in serving those most in need in the community through clinical practice, research, advocacy, education, and administration. We model the independent practice of psychology guided by evidence-based principles, compassion, ethical problem-solving, and effective relationships. In September 2026, we were granted membership in the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). We are not APA-accredited .

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 Program Goals

The MCG Psychology Internship aims to provide high-quality, sequential, and cumulative training that prepares interns for entry-level practice as health service psychologists.

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 those most in need.

Emphasis Tracks

Interns are matched according to Emphasis Track interests. At least 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. Additionally, one four-month rotation is dedicated to track relevant experiences. These track-specific activities allow interns to accumulate specific expertise that is consistent with their career interests and enhances their marketability upon graduation. For the 2027-2028 training year, we are offering the following tracks (on position available per track): Child and Family, Forensic, Health Psych – Chronic Illness, and Health Psych – Integrated Primary Care.

Track Supervisors

- Child and Family Track

  Dr. Christopher Drescher (cdrescher@augusta.edu)
- Forensic Track

  Dr. Holly Tabernik (htabernik@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Chronic Illness Track

  Dr. Rebecca Jump (rjump@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Integrated Primary Care Track:

  Dr. Jessica Britt-Thomas (jbrittthomas@augusta.edu)

Track Descriptions

Child and Family

Training within the Child and Family Emphasis Track stresses experiences in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescents across a range of presenting problems. The track is designed to expose interns to multiple evidence-based treatment modalities (e.g., dialectical behavior therapy, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, family therapy) and assessment procedures (e.g., cognitive, adaptive, neurodevelopmental, and personality testing) for children and adolescents. Core experiences on this track include individual and group therapy, as well as comprehensive psychological assessments, through the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior outpatient clinic. Interns completing training on this track are well-positioned to complete specialty training in child and adolescent clinical psychology at the postdoctoral level.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	Child Outpatient	Child Assessment	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	Inpatient Cancer	Child Assessment	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adolescent Medicine	Child Outpatient	Child Assessment	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Forensic

The Forensic Track Intern completes a variety of court-ordered evaluations during the training year, to include competency to stand trial evaluation, violence risk assessments, and criminal responsibility evaluations. The Forensic Intern is responsible for conducting interviews relevant to the legal questions and is the first author on reports to the court. In addition to practice with semi-structured interviewing, Forensic Interns will gain familiarity with Forensic Assessment Measures, including but not limited to the ECST-R, MFAST, SIRS-2, TOMM, HCR-20 V3, ILK, and PCL-R. These assessments will take place both inpatient and outpatient settings. In addition to assessment work, Forensic Interns can elect to conduct both group and individual intervention on an inpatient basis. Group interventions include, but are not limited to DBT, Sex Offender Treatment, and Competency Restoration. Lastly, throughout the year, the Forensic Intern will contribute to an interdisciplinary team at East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH). Interns who complete the Forensic Track will be well positioned for a post-doctoral fellowship in Forensic Psychology. As an added bonus, ECRH has an ABPP experience Waivered Forensic Postdoctoral Fellowship, which many of our prior interns have stayed on to complete.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Adult Outpatient	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	Family Medicine	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	ECRH	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Health Psych—Chronic Illness

The Chronic Illness Track offers specialized training in integrated behavioral health within a medical specialty care setting. Interns are primarily based at the Ryan White HIV Clinic in the Infectious Diseases Division of Wellstar MCG. Training emphasizes brief, evidence-based behavioral health services embedded in medical care. Core experiences include conducting brief psychological intakes, providing behavioral health consultation, delivering brief interventions, facilitating group therapy, and contributing to program development. Interns also gain valuable experience working as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team, collaborating with medical providers to support the complex needs of patients living with chronic illness. On Fridays throughout the year, Chronic Illness interns will complete psychotherapy in the Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic and primarily work with patients living with HIV. This includes in person work, as well as telepsychology with patients from the Richmond County Health Department (RCHD). There are also opportunities to work with the LGBTQ+ population. In addition to therapy services, interns may participate in community outreach activities supporting these populations. In this setting, clinical training will include individual therapy with an emphasis on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and mindfulness-based approaches. Opportunities to participate in gender evaluations may also be available depending on patient demand.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adult Outpatient	Adult Outpatient	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Family Medicine	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	Inpatient Cancer	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Health Psych—Integrated Primary Care

The Integrated Primary Care Track provides doctoral interns with comprehensive training in delivering behavioral health services within multidisciplinary medical settings. Interns rotate through Family Medicine, Neurology, the HIV Clinic, and the Cancer Center, gaining broad exposure to diverse patient populations and healthcare systems. Across these rotations, interns are trained in evidence-based brief and longer-term interventions targeting health-related concerns and co-occurring psychiatric conditions. Clinical experiences span both acute and chronic medical presentations, including but not limited to psych-oncology, functional neurological disorders, HIV-related health conditions, and chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, COPD, and obesity. Interns develop competency within an integrated, collaborative care model, engaging in same-day behavioral health consultations, warm handoffs, and ongoing interdisciplinary communication with physicians and other medical providers. Emphasis is placed on delivering efficient, patient-centered care within fast-paced medical environments. In addition to intervention, interns gain experience in clinical assessment, including the use of integrated psychological test batteries and targeted evaluations relevant to health psychology and behavioral medicine. Completion of the Integrated Primary Care Track prepares interns for advanced specialty training in health psychology at the postdoctoral level and equips them with the skills necessary to function effectively in integrated medical settings.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Adult Outpatient	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	Inpatient Oncology	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient

Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	Family Medicine	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient



Learn More

Find information about our training program, supervisors, current interns, and more by visiting our website:

https://www.augusta.edu/mcg/psychiatry/psychology/

Rotation Organization

The General Practice Rotation: Clinical training sites include MCG and 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: Located in various inpatient and outpatient medical settings spread across Wellstar MCG Health, 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: The 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.

In addition to the Emphasis Track rotation, at least 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.

Training Site Descriptions

The **Family Medicine Center (FMC)** at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University serves as the largest primary care training site within the department and provides comprehensive care across the lifespan, from cradle to grave. The clinic operates within a traditional Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) model, in which psychology services are embedded directly within primary care. Behavioral health providers collaborate closely with attending physicians and family medicine residents to support whole-person care. Services include same-day behavioral health consultations, warm handoffs from medical providers, brief intervention models common to primary care, as well as longer-term psychotherapy when clinically indicated. In addition to therapeutic services, the psychology team provides a range of clinical assessments, including cognitive, neuropsychological, and psychological evaluations. The department houses an active Family Medicine Residency Program, creating a highly collaborative interprofessional training environment that includes physician residents, medical students, and clinical pharmacy trainees. Psychology interns rotating through the FMC serve as integral members of the behavioral health team, contributing to patient care, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and the training mission of the clinic.

Interns in the **Neurology Clinic** will have the opportunity to provide psychological care in an interdisciplinary setting to a wide variety of patients and presentations. Neurological disorders encountered will likely include Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, functional neurological disorder, and more. Interns will provide initial psychological assessments (possibly including brief neuropsychological assessment such as the RBANS), ad-hoc outpatient consults, and short-term psychotherapy for identified return patients.

East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH) is a state-operated intermediate security forensic and civil psychiatric hospital. Interns who rotate through ECRH will gain exposure to individuals who have been diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illnesses, intellectual developmental disorders, personality disorders, and substance use disorders. Many of our individuals also have physical health concerns. Interns will participate in interdisciplinary team meetings as well as rounds. ECRH is one of three assessment placements within the internship, typical assessments include diagnostic clarification, competency to stand trial, and violence risk. Interns may also elect to participate in group and/or individual intervention while at ECRH.

The **Ryan White HIV Clinic**, located on the AU Health Sciences Campus, is a free-standing facility that serves approximately 1,200 patients living with HIV across a five-state region surrounding Augusta. The clinic is deeply committed to advancing health equity, providing comprehensive care to a diverse population that includes many underinsured and uninsured individuals. The setting is multidisciplinary, with interns functioning in a dynamic interprofessional environment that fosters collaboration across medical, behavioral health, and support services. Care is further enhanced by on-site resources, including an in-house retail pharmacy and dental clinic, which support the complex needs of patients. The clinic also serves as the primary training site for the Chronic Illness Track and offers rotation opportunities for psychology interns from other tracks.

The **Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Outpatient Clinic**, housed in the Stoney Building, provides interns opportunities to work with adult, adolescent, and/or child patients (depending on emphasis track). Interns will complete intake interviews and individual psychotherapy, as well as co-lead a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Groups (adolescent or adult). There are some opportunities for family therapy. To the extent possible, cases are selected in alignment with the intern's individual training goals. Typical cases are related to mood disturbance, anxiety and trauma-related disorders, health behavior concerns, and/or the LGBTQ+ population. Clinical training will include an emphasis on evidence-based treatments, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), DBT, and other mindfulness-based approaches.

The Inpatient Psycho-Oncology Consultation-Liaison (CL) Service, housed in the **Wellstar Georgia Cancer Center**, provides integrated psychological care to hospitalized hematology/oncology patients, addressing psychosocial and emotional factors that impact the hospital admission, medical treatment, and the patient's quality of life. Within this setting, psychology interns conduct focused assessments and deliver brief, targeted interventions for concerns such as anxiety, depression, insomnia, pain, treatment adherence, and grief. Interns develop skills in interdisciplinary communication/collaboration and care coordination. This rotation also supports interns in building knowledge of hematology/oncology populations, related medical terminology, and the psychological impact of serious medical illness, while strengthening their skills in a fast-paced inpatient medical environment.

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 leadership 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.



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 Seminar: Provides an opportunity to develop skills of empiricism and reflection in the modes of group supervision and psychotherapy didactics. Didactics for the seminar focus upon: (a) common factors in psychotherapy, (b) cognitive behavioral therapy, (c) acceptance and commitment therapy, (d) trauma-focused therapy, and (e) therapy termination.

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

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- More than 12 licensed psychologists that serve as supervisors or other training contributors.
- Supervisors have decades of combined experience working with interns.
- Availability of varied clinical experiences across multiple interdisciplinary care settings.
- Postdoctoral opportunities: we have postdoctoral positions in Child and Adolescents Psychology, Psycho-Oncology, DBT/ACT/Psychology of Women, and Forensic Psychology.
- 3+ hours of protected research time each week. Interns have the opportunity present and publish during the internship year, including collaborating with internship faculty on active research projects.



Other Training Experiences

Cultural Competence Training Experiences: Cultural competence 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 competence in their practice. Throughout the training year, the internship embeds cultural competence in all its training activities. This is accomplished through cultural competency topics across all seminars, clinical practicum experiences, a yearly cultural competence workshop, and a review of diagnostic interview and case conceptualization that addresses the pertinent cultural areas.

Equality Clinic: The Equality Clinic of Augusta is an independent nonprofit organization. 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 experience, supervising all professional activities on the rotation/, 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 .

- **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 December 1. Offers are tendered through the APPIC National Matching program.

Applicant Qualifications: Interns are expected to have completed at least three years of doctoral study with a recommended number of 400 intervention hours and 40 assessment hours before entering our internship. If applicants are below the minimum number of recommended hours but are otherwise a strong fit for our program, they are encouraged to apply. Applicants must:

- Complete their master's degree requirements prior to the application deadline (if applicable in their doctoral program)
- Pass comprehensive exams prior to the application deadline (if applicable in their doctoral program)
- Have Dissertation or Doctoral Project Proposal approval at the time of application deadline

We prefer applicants from APA-accredited programs, but will consider applicants from unaccredited programs. We also prefer applicants with experience with at least one major personality measure (e.g., MMPI, MCMI, or PAI) and cognitive assessments measures (e.g., Wechsler scales, Woodcock-Johnson, Kaufman batteries). Finally, we prefer applicants with experience in the settings included in the internship (i.e., academic medicine or forensic setting/state hospital work settings).

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. 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.

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Our History: Since 1982 the Medical College of Georgia participated in psychology internship training as part of the Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center Psychology Internship. With the 2022-2023 training cohort, we began the process of operating separate Internships. Starting with the 2027-2028 training cohort, the consortium will cease to exist, and we will be operating as fully separate Internships. As a result of this history, many of our faculty have numerous years of serving as an internship supervisor.

FAQs

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

A: We encourage but do not require one de-identified, integrated assessment report.

Q: When are applications due? A:

December 1st of each year.

Q: How much is the salary?

A: $37,063 for the 2027-2028 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/Psycho-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

If applicants are below the minimum number of recommended hours but are otherwise a strong fit for our program, they are encouraged to apply.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-Time Interns	$37,063
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)	120 (earned monthly)
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	96 (earned monthly)
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

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DRUG SCREENING

All interns are subject to standard Human Resources procedures, including a background check and drug screen. Please be advised that the HR department has a zero-tolerance policy for testing positive for THC, regardless of the laws and policies in other states.

Also, please be advised that we cannot hire an intern who has been convicted of a crime of "moral turpitude." Crimes of moral turpitude are generally those involving vileness or depravity with respect to the duties a person owes to other members of society or to society in general. Of particular concern are those crimes involving violence, dishonesty, or breach of trust. Examples include but are not limited to murder, manslaughter, rape, fraud, embezzlement, larceny, the sale or trafficking of illegal drugs, and child abuse. If an applicant has been convicted of a different crime, it will be reviewed by a committee within the HR department to determine employment eligibility.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY

The Augusta University—Medical College of Georgia Equal Employment Policy can be found here.