



Doctoral Psychology Internship Program Bath VA Medical Center

76 Veterans Ave, Bath, NY 14830
(607) 664-4000 ext. 44305
<http://www.bath.va.gov>

**MATCH Number Program Code: 234411
Applications Due: November 20, 2020**

Accreditation Status

The Psychology Internship Program the Bath VA Medical Center is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association, with next site visit scheduled to occur in 2022. Additional information related to our accreditation status can be directed to Commission on Accreditation, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242.

COVID-19 Impact on Training

The COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous personal and professional challenges for us all. One of these challenges is uncertainty about what will happen next week, next month, and especially one year from now.

The Bath VA Medical Center Psychology Internship Program has prided itself on its transparency, providing detailed and accurate information about our program and training opportunities. With COVID, transparency means we cannot definitively predict how specific rotations or adjunctive training opportunities may evolve for the 2021/2022 training year.

With confidence, we can say that there will likely be more utilization of telehealth and technology-based delivery platforms. We do not expect there to be any significant changes to the base clinical services or populations served through rotations and adjunctive experiences described in our materials. With that being said, we have detailed some of the adjustments that have occurred during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 cohorts (see pages 14-15). However, due to the fluid nature of the situation, these changes may or may not continue into the 2021/2022 training year.

Importantly, although a lot has happened this spring and summer in regards to making abrupt shifts to providing many clinical services and training experiences through the use of telehealth technology, our dedication to high-quality clinical care and psychology training and our dedication to the trainees themselves has never been stronger.

We will continue to update our public materials as we know more about what will be in store for the 2021/2022 training year. Please feel free to reach out to the Director of Training if you have any questions.

Introduction

The Bath VA Medical Center Psychology Internship Program provides qualified doctoral candidates generalist training with a variety of psychiatric, medical, and geriatric patients in residential and outpatient settings. Internship graduates are prepared for professional practice in VA facilities as well as a wide range of health care settings, including medical centers and non-VA hospitals that primarily serve adults.



Bath VA Medical Center



Keuka Lake, located seven miles north of the Bath VA

Training Settings

Bath VA provides primary and behavioral health care throughout a rural seven-county area of southern New York and northern Pennsylvania. Patients are served at two additional community-based outpatient clinics. Training takes place at the main hospital and the Domiciliary, all conveniently located at the main campus. Interns are provided a private office with a dedicated computer and phone.

Aims

The Bath VA internship program follows a scholar-practitioner model to prepare interns as competent entry-level psychologists, serving as clinicians for an adult population. We believe that psychological practice and scholarly inquiry are symbiotic and mutually informing, and emphasize learning-by-doing. Interns will acquire knowledge and develop skills in the following areas: ethics, diversity, consultation, assessment, evidence-based practices, and foundational personal and professional skills.

We emphasize a generalist approach that aims to develop proficient diagnosticians with the ability to practice both short and long term therapeutic strategies using individual and group approaches. In addition to core training rotations in outpatient mental health and substance use, interns are provided exposure to several specialties (e.g., primary care, neuropsychology, geriatrics, PTSD). As a result, interns are provided a strong foundation for future specialization at the post-doctoral level.

Clinical practice at the Bath VA is informed by research and interns have the opportunity to receive training in evidence-based treatments, including cognitive-behavioral interventions, problem-solving therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia. We expect interns to think critically, to generate and test hypotheses related to their clinical work and become educated consumers of clinical research.

Our focus at the Bath VA is clinical practice and excellent service delivery in a setting where self-reflection and mentoring is valued. The intern is guided through training from a developmental approach; interns will begin by observing their supervisors' clinical work, will advance to conducting assessment and therapy while receiving in-vivo supervision and feedback, and graduate to junior colleague status within each clinical rotation.

Our training program is sensitive to individual differences and diversity and is predicated on the idea that psychology practice is improved when we develop a broader and more compassionate view of individual differences. In our efforts to train culturally aware and competent psychologists, our program integrates diversity-focused training in the forms of clinical supervision, didactic seminars and clinical case conferences. Our program faculty has expertise working with patients from various racial/ethnic groups, sexual/gender orientations, religious affiliations, and age groups.

By the conclusion of the internship year, interns are expected to demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. Research - Consistent with our Scholar-Practitioner Model, Interns will demonstrate the ability to integrate scientific literature findings into the clinical conceptualization process and apply empirically-based services in both therapy and assessment contexts.

2. Ethical and Legal Standards - Interns will increase awareness of ethical and legal standards related to the provision of clinical Psychology in general and within a VA setting. This will include an emphasis on providing ethical care with appropriate cultural and diversity competencies. Interns will demonstrate knowledge and implementation of ethical standards of the APA and relevant local and federal laws.

3. Individual and Cultural Diversity - Interns will demonstrate awareness of the need to identify and consider cultural diversity and individual differences and integrate it within the clinical and professional setting. They will have a mature understanding of issues related to ethnic, cultural, gender, and sexual diversity.

4. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors - As professional identity is constantly evolving at the Internship level of practice, the Bath VAMC Internship will foster the Intern's ability to operate within, and contribute to, an interprofessional team. This will be accomplished by emphasizing appropriate, professional behavior towards staff, Veterans, and other individuals in the treatment setting. The Internship develops skills in maintaining a sense of balance and self-care, a professional demeanor in times of stress, and effective time-management in both administrative and clinical duties.

5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills - Interns will display effective interpersonal and communication skills with patients, their families, and staff. They will show an ability to form supportive and appropriate working relationships with patients and staff.

6. Psychological Assessment - Interns will develop skills in conducting intake interviews (including a biopsychosocial history); administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological assessment instruments; integrating standardized assessment tools with interview information; writing comprehensive reports tailored to the unique needs of the setting; and providing appropriate feedback to patients and families.

7. Intervention - Interns will develop the ability to provide professional entry-level skills in psychotherapy and interventions for various mental health conditions, including individual and group psychotherapy. This will include the timely documentation of services provided, appropriate case conceptualization, identification of treatment goals, identification of crisis needs, and interprofessional collaboration.

8. Supervision - The Bath VAMC provides didactic and simulated training in supervision. Interns will learn about theories and supervision competencies, display an ability to provide effective feedback and adapt to the developmental level of supervisee.

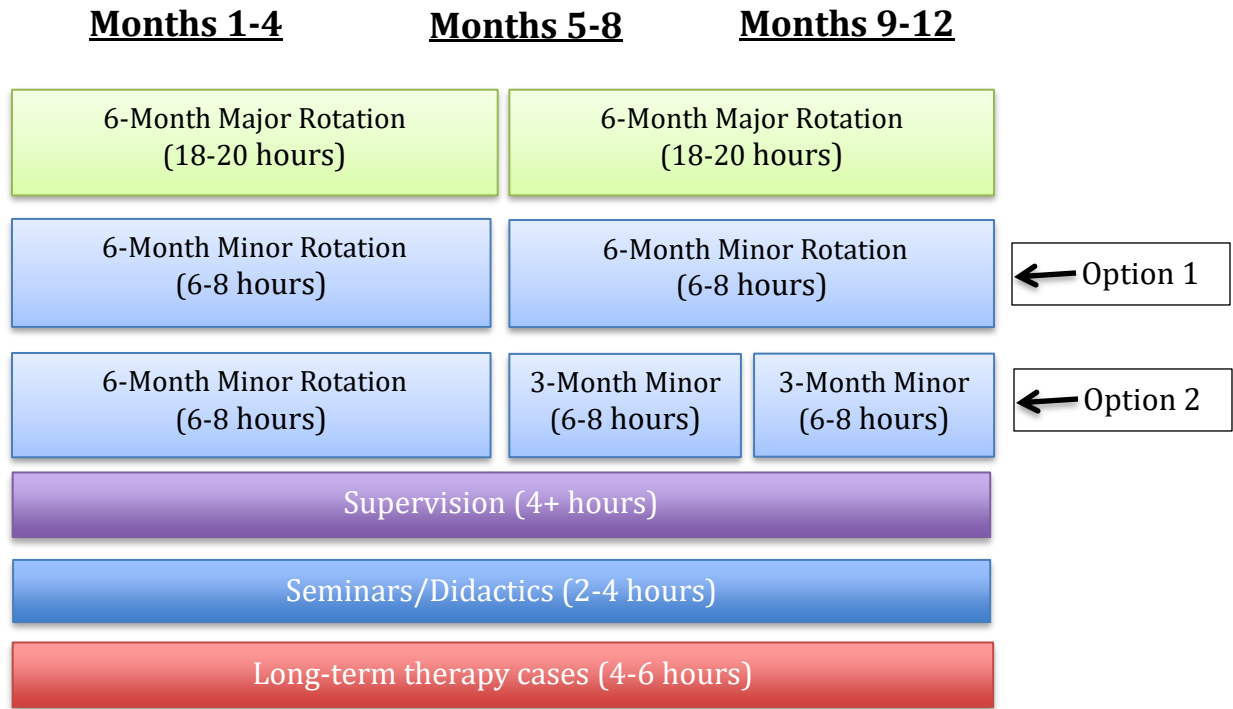
9. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills - Interns will develop clinical skills within the context of interdisciplinary teams. They will demonstrate an ability to effectively consult within interdisciplinary teams, develop rapport and open communication with non-psychologist staff, and be able to seek and integrate feedback from other disciplines appropriately.

Program Structure

Our internship offers full-time, generalist training in the practice of professional psychology within a multidisciplinary Veterans Affairs Medical Center with rural outpatient clinics. Psychology interns are required by VA to complete 2080 hours of internship training during the 12-month internship year (including all approved leave time and federal holidays). For the 2021-2022 training year, the Bath VA Psychology Internship Program will offer two positions, each providing generalist training with the option to continue to explore areas of interest further throughout the year via minor rotations. Interns will be required to provide long-term psychotherapy for two to four patients at the Domiciliary or Outpatient Mental Health clinic for the year. Interns are required to spend at least 25% of their time performing clinical activities, for a minimum of 500 clinical contact hours over the course of the internship year. Each week, interns will receive a minimum of two hours of individual, face-to-face supervision with their major rotation supervisor, one hour of individual, face-to-face supervision with their minor supervisor, and one hour of group supervision with the Director of Training. This is in compliance with APA standards. Many rotations offer more than the required four hours, due to programmatic structure, and/or additional team meetings and consultations that occur as part of the training experience. Figure 1 is an example of training structure.

Rotations: Major rotations last for six months each, resulting in two semesters, and include General Mental Health and the Domiciliary. Major rotations will comprise 18-20 hours of the intern's week. Interns choose among various minor rotations for each of the semesters. These combined experiences account for approximately 6-8 hours/week.

Figure 1. Training Structure



MAJOR ROTATIONS

General Mental Health

The Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic (BHOC) provides a range of outpatient mental health services to veterans reflecting a broad spectrum of mental health diagnoses and concerns. Most common diagnoses include anxiety and depressive disorders, followed by PTSD, substance use, and other serious psychiatric disorders (e.g., psychosis, bipolar disorder). The BHOC multidisciplinary team is comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, social workers, nursing case managers, and medical support assistants. Treatment team meetings involving all outpatient clinical staff, as well as representatives from PRRC and MHICM teams and the Suicide Prevention Coordinator, are conducted on a twice-weekly basis to collaboratively discuss and address complex treatment concerns. Interns will have the opportunity to engage in individual and group psychotherapy, psychological and cognitive assessment, frequent formal and informal consultation with the multidisciplinary team, and consultation with other medical professionals within the facility. Interns will participate in educational seminars, and will have the opportunity to learn a number of empirically-based treatments, such as problem solving therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and acceptance and commitment therapy.

Substance Use Treatment

The Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (DRRTP) is a 170-bed residential treatment program that serves veterans who are dealing with primary substance use issues, often comorbid with other mental health diagnoses,

homelessness, and unemployment. The Domiciliary provides a residential, rehabilitative, therapeutic environment with a goal of successfully reintegrating veterans back into the community. The DRRTTP patient population is comprised of a culturally diverse group of veterans with dual diagnosis (substance use disorders as a co-morbidity of another mental illness). Interns will have the opportunity to engage in individual and group psychotherapy, psychological and cognitive assessment, and consultation with professional staff. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn a number of evidence-based treatment modalities such as cognitive-behavioral therapy for chronic pain, mindfulness-based relapse prevention, cognitive-behavioral therapy for depression, cognitive processing therapy, and motivational interviewing.

MINOR ROTATIONS

Interns have the option of extending their major rotations throughout the internship year and/or participating in the minor rotations below, which will be reflected in their individualized training plan. Dependent on interest and availability, other clinical opportunities may be available, and tailored to the intern's needs.

Primary Care

The *Home Based Primary Care Program (HBPC)* is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary primary care service conducted in the homes of veterans with complex and chronic disabling disease. The program uses a team of health care professionals (nurses, doctors, psychologists, social workers, dietitians, etc.) who work together to create a plan of care specific to each veteran. The service is designed for homebound veterans to improve their quality of life, restore health and independence, reduce the need for admissions and re-admissions to the hospital, reduce the number of outpatient visits, and to support caregivers in their desire to keep a loved one at home. Interns will have the opportunity to engage in individual psychotherapy for patients and caregivers, psychological, cognitive, and capacity assessments, and frequent formal and informal consultation within the interprofessional team. Interns will also participate in monthly HBPC case conferences and monthly education seminars, and will have the opportunity to learn several time-limited empirically-based treatments, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, in addition to motivational interviewing and acceptance and commitment approaches.

Geriatrics

The *Community Living Center (CLC)* minor rotation combines working with geriatric, short-term rehabilitation, and palliative care/hospice patients at the CLC and Palliative Care Unit. The intern will have an opportunity to conduct psychological assessments and screenings of cognition, mood, and behavior symptoms, develop appropriate plans of care, consult with clinical staff, and provide psychotherapy to veterans and support to their family members and caregivers.

Neuropsychology

Interested interns have the opportunity to learn about and provide neuropsychological clinical interviews, selection of appropriate neuropsychological assessment instruments, test administration, scoring, report writing, and how to provide patient and caregiver feedback. In addition, there may be opportunities to perform evaluations for medical or decision-making capacity, as well as capacity to live independently.

PTSD

This minor rotation (six-month rotation only) offers the intern exposure to the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of veterans in recovery from PTSD. There are opportunities to understand the dual-diagnosis aspects of PTSD, the role of cultural variables in conceptualization and treatment, and the accumulated effects of trauma across the lifespan behaviorally, interpersonally, and intrapsychically. The intern will gain experience in evidence-based assessment (CAPS-5) and psychotherapies for PTSD, such as cognitive processing therapy and prolonged exposure therapy, and in the role of a psychologist as a treatment provider, interdisciplinary team member, and consultant.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCES: Depending on their interest, interns may have additional learning opportunities within the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (an intensive outpatient treatment program), Suicide Prevention Program, Primary Care Mental Health Integration, the Homeless Program, and Bariatric Surgery.

Seminars (4 hours): Instruction in a wide range of clinical and professional issues takes place in the weekly Special Topics Seminar. Topics typically covered in the seminar include psychopathology, treatment-specific interventions, and areas of professional development. A Diversity Seminar series meets monthly and interns will complete a diversity project of their choosing. Interns will also participate in bi-weekly ethics seminars and psychology case conference, presenting a minimum of two times over the course of the training year. Finally, interns may be given authorized time to attend regional and national professional conferences and continuing education workshops.

Evaluation of Interns: Interns will undergo individualized planning and periodic reassessment of goals. At the beginning of each rotation, interns will describe their individual learning goals in that placement. At the mid-point of each six-month rotation (i.e., at three months), interns evaluate themselves, as well as the placement and supervisor, in order to identify those factors that help or hinder the attainment of their own training goals. Concurrently, supervisors provide written evaluations of interns' performance, with consideration for the interns' stated goals, the standard of practice in the clinical setting, and the exit criteria of the doctoral program in clinical psychology. Formal, written evaluations will be conducted at the mid-and end-points of each six-month rotation, for a total of four written evaluations throughout the year. If a three-month minor rotation is elected, formal, written evaluations will be conducted at the end-point of the rotation, with informal feedback provided throughout the rotation.

PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY

Dr. Virginia Kasser is a the licensed clinical psychologist for the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program. Dr. Kasser earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from University of Rochester. She completed her doctoral internship at Montana State University. She utilizes behavioral and cognitive behavioral therapies and other evidence-based treatment modalities to treat veterans with complex medical conditions and cooccurring mental health diagnoses. Her clinical interests include geropsychology and maximizing patient autonomy.

Dr. Jim Kittleson is a licensed clinical psychologist for the Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic (BHOC) and serves as the Chief of Psychology. Dr. Kittleson earned his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL. He completed his doctoral internship at the VA Western NY Healthcare System in Buffalo, NY and his post-doctoral fellowship in the Federal Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN. He has been board certified in Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology since 2010. Dr. Kittleson has participated in VA approved grant research and co-authored articles related to traumatic brain injury. His clinical interests and duties include neuropsychological and psychological assessment, as well as therapy with individuals who struggle with depression and anxiety, PTSD, and co-morbid substance use.

Dr. Carlie Phillips is a licensed clinical psychologist for the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) and serves as the facility PTSD Lead. She is also the Director of Training for the Psychology Internship Program. Dr. Phillips earned her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Spalding University in Louisville, KY. She completed her doctoral internship and post-doctoral training at the Lexington VA Medical Center in Lexington, KY. Dr. Phillips specializes in the assessment and treatment of PTSD and comorbid disorders, integrating both cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal theories and interventions. She provides evidence-based treatments to veterans in individual and group settings and is a VA-trained provider in cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia. Her clinical and research interests include trauma, PTSD, anxiety disorders, exposure-based therapies, and post-deployment readjustment in OEF/OIF/OND veterans. Recent presentations have included topics such as assessment of trauma, treatment considerations and approaches with comorbid substance use and PTSD, and mental health protective factors in veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Melissa Sable is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Community Living Center (CLC) and Palliative Care Unit. In this capacity, she provides individual psychotherapy, psychological and cognitive assessment, and consultation to professional staff concerning behavioral management, clinical assessment findings, and appropriate intervention and treatment plans. Dr. Sable earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Ohio University in Athens, OH, and completed her doctoral internship and postdoctoral training at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins School of

Medicine in Baltimore, MD. She has specialized training in health-focused psychological care and serves as a consultant for psychological health assessments for veterans requiring surgical clearance (i.e. transplant, bariatric surgery, spinal cord stimulator placement). Her research has included work with HIV/AIDS, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation. She has worked with numerous specialty clinics and teams (i.e., cystic fibrosis, gastrointestinal, orthopedics, feeding disorders, spinal cord injury).

Dr. Anastasia Zyuban is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program. She also serves as the facility LGBT coordinator. Dr. Zyuban earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY. She completed her doctoral internship at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, NY and her post-doctoral training at the Bath VA Medical Center. She has been board certified in Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology since 2018. Dr. Zyuban provides individual and group psychotherapy, psychological and cognitive assessment, and consultation to clinical staff within the DR RTP. While her background is mostly relational and psychodynamic, she also provides a number of evidence-based treatment modalities in both group and individual settings. These include cognitive-behavioral therapy for chronic pain, mindfulness-based relapse prevention therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy for depression, cognitive processing therapy, and motivational interviewing.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

OUR APPIC INTERNSHIP MATCHING PROGRAM CODE IS 234411.

Our internship program uses the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) to enable you to complete one application for all sites that are participating in the APPIC uniform application process. The AAPI is available through the APPIC web site. Please go to the APPIC web site at www.appic.org for more information about accessing and completing the online application.

Please be aware that the “Academic Program’s Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness” form must be submitted ELECTRONICALLY to the internship site by your graduate Director of Clinical Training. Instructions regarding this part of the application process are contained in the online AAPI.

Our program participates in the APPIC match and applications must be submitted through the online AAPI (which can be found at the APPIC website: www.appic.org). Deadline for application is November 20, 2020. No mail or email application materials will be accepted. It is required that applicants include: curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation and all graduate transcripts, including those which did not confer a degree. All candidates are to be certified by their Directors of Training that they are academically ready to start internship. Applicants curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation should also be submitted through the online AAPI. Applicants are

encouraged to complete the application as early as possible so that ample time will be available for application review.

Selection Procedures and Interviews

Our internship program utilizes a two-part selection procedure. Completed applications are initially reviewed by the Training Director. Current enrollment in an APA- or CPA- accredited Clinical or Counseling Psychology graduate program or in an APA- or CPA- approved re-specialization training program in Clinical or Counseling Psychology, completion of the dissertation or doctoral project proposal, and United States citizenship are all required for entry into our internship program. We also require comprehensive exams passed by application deadline and four years of graduate training. Given the likely impact the pandemic has had on practicum experiences, requirements for clinical hours this training year are 300 hours minimum of intervention and 50 hours minimum of assessment experience. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Director of Training if COVID-19 has impacted your ability to reach these thresholds.

After initial review, applications that are still under consideration are reviewed by additional Staff Psychologists and then ranked according to applicants' number of practicum hours, assessment experience, variety of practicum placements, and letters of recommendation. Applicants' responses to essay questions on the AAPI are used to gauge the "goodness of fit" between the student and our training site. We seek applicants who have a strong academic foundation from their doctoral program, and who have mastered basic skills in standard assessment and intervention techniques from their practicum experiences. The majority of our patients are adults who present with combined medical and psychiatric symptoms, and we prefer applicants who demonstrate an interest in this population through their past exposure to similar training experiences and articulation of their future career goals.

As part of the application process, we hold interviews by invitation only. Given the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, all interviews for this year will be virtual. We have always offered the option of virtual interviews in lieu of on-site interviews and with the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize the health and safety issues for applicants and our staff, particularly those with existing health-related challenges. We believe that not offering in-person interviews creates more of a level playing field for both programs and applicants. It also removes the pressure applicants may feel to attend an in-person interview.

Applicants invited for an interview will be notified no later than December 15th, via e-mail. We will also contact applicants via e-mail who are not being invited for interviews by December 15th. If you do not have an email address, you will need to phone Dr. Phillips (Director of Training) at (607) 664-4305 to inquire into your status.

If you are invited for an interview, which typically occur mid-January, we will ask that you make a firm commitment to one of the dates that will be identified in the

notification email. **Failure to attend a scheduled interview will result in your application being withdrawn from further consideration.** If you are invited for an interview, plan on participating from either 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM on the day of your interview. On interview day, you will be joining other applicants in a group format during the morning hours in a welcome and informational session with the Director of Training followed by individual interviews with Staff Psychologists and ending with a meeting with current interns. Individual interviews are evaluated according to several factors, including your responses to questions about difficult situations you've handled in the past, questions about difficult diagnostic dilemmas and treatment challenges, and how well our site meets your training needs and interests.

Our program is participating in the APPIC Computer Match Program so you will need to obtain an Applicant Agreement Package from National Matching Services, Inc. to register for the Match. You can download the Applicant Agreement form at www.natmatch.com/psychint. If you do not register, you will not be eligible to match with any APPIC programs. We recommend that you carefully review the official APPIC Match Policies and the Internship Matching Program Schedule of Dates, with are also available at www.appic.org.

Finally, it is important to note that a CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION STATUS and CERTIFICATION OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP are required to become a VA Intern. The Federal Government requires that male applicants to VA positions who were born after 12/31/1959 must sign a Pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they are employed. It is not necessary to submit this form with the application, but if you match with this Internship and fit the above criteria, it will be required. All interns will have to complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning Internship. We will not consider applications from anyone who is not currently a U. S. Citizen. In addition, matched interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decision are contingent upon passing these screens. As are other employees, interns are subject to random selection for drug screening exams once on staff. Finally, matched interns will be required to provide proof of up-to-date vaccinations, including screening for tuberculosis and hepatitis B vaccination (or have signed declination waivers).

If you have questions regarding APPIC procedures, their telephone number is (832) 284-4080. The telephone number for the American Psychological Association is (202) 336-5979. The number for National Matching Services is (800) 461-6322.

For your application to be complete, we must receive the following materials through APPIC by 11/20/20:

- **Online APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI)**
- **Your Curriculum Vitae—to be submitted as part of AAPI**
- **Three letters of recommendation—to be submitted as part of AAPI**

- **Graduate school transcripts—to be submitted as part of AAPI**
- **Your Academic Program Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness Form—to be submitted by your Director of Clinical Training as part of AAPI**
- **Cover letter (no longer than two pages) addressing how your experiences to date and current career goals make you a good fit for the training offered at Bath VAMC**

Requests for further information should be directed to:

Carlie Phillips, PsyD, Director of Training
Bath VA Medical Center
76 Veterans Ave
Bath, NY 14810
E-mail: carlie.phillips@va.gov

All materials must be submitted electronically as part of the online AAPI.

Please read all relevant instructions carefully to ensure that transcripts, letters of recommendation, and the Academic Program Verification of Internship Eligibility and Readiness forms are submitted in a timely manner. Applications that are not completed by 11:59P EST on 11/20/20 will not be considered, even if portions of the application have been submitted prior to that date and time.

This internship site abides by the [APPIC policy](#) that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant. Additionally our program follows the APPIC policy on nondiscrimination, in regard to race/ethnic background, age, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities. You are encouraged to read or download the complete text of their regulations governing program membership and the match process from APPIC's Website. The Federal Government is an Equal Opportunity employer.

The Bath VAMC encourages applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and with a variety of experiences. As an equal opportunity training program, the Internship welcomes and strongly encourages applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, disability, or other minority status. This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. If you need reasonable accommodations for any part of the application or hiring process, please notify Dr. Phillips by telephone or email. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on an individualized basis. We do not require self-disclosure of sensitive personal information during our interviews.

As noted on our program website, please visit the [VA Psychology Training Eligibility](#) website for additional review of eligibility requirements for psychology training within the VA.

COVID-19 Modifications

Bath VA continues to provide most clinical services via telehealth (telephone or video) and limits in-person appointments to those of medical necessity. In addition, usual administrative duties (e.g., meetings, conferences, etc.) have also been altered to limit face-to-face contact with others, to decrease risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2.

Psychology interns are considered “essential employees” and provide patient services via telehealth (video or phone) whenever clinically and logistically possible. At the current time, it is anticipated that interns will generally complete internship hours on-site. However, in the event of increasing COVID cases in the community or other COVID related concerns, telework may be authorized. The approval of telework to complete internship activities, to include patient care, clinical supervision, didactics and other training requirements, is at the discretion of the Director of Training, the Designated Education Officer (DEO), and medical center leadership. Interns may be permitted to telework if determined appropriate by the Training Director and primary supervisors.

Whether on-site or teleworking, interns cannot provide any clinical services across state lines. This is mandated by federal law, which is currently in the process of being changed. There is no expectation that changes to these rules will occur during the current training year. If an intern is on-site, supervisor of record must also be on-site.

Telesupervision via video platform may be provided. Telesupervision will not commence until the intern has become acquainted with the supervisor through face-to-face interaction, as each supervisor will determine the level of appropriateness of telesupervision of their rotation as well as the intern assigned to the rotation. Telesupervision takes place by phone only when video is unavailable. Appropriate precautions (e.g., physical distancing, mask/face covering, hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, etc.) should be used for in-person supervision during the time outlined by the Bath VA in response to COVID-19.

When performing clinical services to patients via telehealth, “live” observation by the supervisor will be completed by either phone conferencing or joining the video session. If observation is in-person, supervisor, intern, and patient must all adhere to face-to-face guidance set forth by the Bath VA.

Other training activities (e.g., didactics, case conferences, lunch and learns, diversity projects, etc.) may be completed via telehealth technology.

All staff and individuals entering the facility continued to be screened with relevant COVID screening questions, and body temperatures continue to be taken daily for all those entering the VA. The VA strictly limits visitors coming on site. All staff are provided with ample PPE in cases when it may be needed, and staff and visitors are required to wear masks at all times (unless by themselves in their own office space). All staff must

stay home if they are not feeling well or experiencing any COVID symptoms (extra days of leave may be allowed under certain circumstances to encourage this). Interns have access to masks, hand sanitizer, and CAVI wipes; interns also each have their own office.

Interns are provided with instruction regarding the use of the telehealth equipment and more detailed policies and procedures at the outset of the training year.

Interns on General Mental Health and PTSD rotations, which are housed in outpatient clinics, conduct all intake evaluations and therapy (individual and group) via video or phone, until further notice.

For the Substance Use Treatment rotation, through the residential domiciliary, services may be provided via telehealth technology and/or in-person. New patients are quarantined for 14 days and will not have any interaction with interns during this period; positive or presumed positive COVID cases are removed from the building and sent to quarantine in another building, which the interns will not be permitted to access; all patients and staff wear masks; all patients and staff have their temperatures checked daily (patients 2x a day) and asked screening questions; patients are not allowed to go on pass or leave campus for the duration of their admission; volunteer/outside services are temporarily stopped; social distancing is enforced: groups are kept small and individuals are assigned to private rooms; interns have a private office.

Interns on the Neuropsychology rotation conduct clinical interviews via video or phone. Testing is completed in-person, using appropriate precautions (i.e., face masks, safety glasses or goggles, plexiglass desk shield, CAVI wipes, hand sanitizer). Feedback sessions are provided via video or phone.

Interns on the Geriatric rotation, which is primarily housed in the CLC (VA nursing care facility), conduct all therapy services via video or phone. Evaluations requested adhere to similar precautions as Neuropsychology.

Primary Care (HBPC) rotation is conducting in-person visits, using appropriate precautions (i.e., face masks, safety glasses or goggles, hand sanitizer, physical distancing).

Please note, the above is subject to change as new information becomes available, to include changes to assigned supervisors, training experiences, and medical center operating procedures.

INTERNSHIP ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT, AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TABLES

Date Program Tables are updated: July 29, 2020

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:

As noted above, our internship seeks applicants who have a strong academic foundation from their doctoral program, and who have mastered basic skills in standard assessment and intervention techniques from their practicum experiences. Our program focuses on a goodness of fit between intern goals and our training opportunities, preferring applicants who demonstrate an interest in patients who present with combined medical and psychiatric symptoms through their past exposure to similar training experiences and articulation of their future career goals.

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	<u>Y</u>	Amount: 300
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours:	N	<u>Y</u>	Amount: 50

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

- 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 re-specialization training program in Clinical or Counseling Psychology
- Approval for internship status by graduate program training director
- Completion of the dissertation or doctoral project proposal, comprehensive exams passed by application deadline, and four years of graduate training
- U.S. citizenship
- Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26
- Matched interns are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decision are contingent upon passing these screens
- As are other employees, matched interns are subject to random selection for drug screening exams once on staff
- Matched interns will be required to provide proof of up-to-date vaccinations, including screening for tuberculosis and hepatitis B vaccination (or have signed declination waivers)

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns: \$27,030
 Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns: N/A

Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	<u>Yes</u>	No
If access to medical insurance is provided		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	<u>Yes</u>	No
Coverage of family member(s) available?	<u>Yes</u>	No
Coverage of legally married partner available?	<u>Yes</u>	No
Coverage of domestic partner available?	Yes	<u>No</u>
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104	
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?	<u>Yes</u>	No
Other Benefits (please describe): Ten paid federal holidays; up to 24 hours of leave for professional development; eligible to receive health, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage; access to facility gym (currently closed due to pandemic); possible weather and safety leave		

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table.

Initial Post-Internship Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

2017-2020

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts: 6

Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing their doctoral degree: 0

	PD	EP
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	2	1
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	0	0
Other medical center or hospital	3	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	0
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

Bath and the Finger Lakes Region



The Bath VA is located in the city of Bath, New York, at the heart of the beautiful Finger Lakes region. With a population of over 12,000, Bath is surrounded by quaint small towns, rural agricultural areas, and small city communities.

The Finger Lakes is well known as wine country, and the scenic area provides opportunities for numerous outdoor activities, including kayaking, sailing, hiking, swimming, x-country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing.

Bath is also located near numerous scenic parks including the “Grand Canyon of the East” at Letchworth State Park (ranked the #1 State Park in the Nation in 2015), beautiful Watkins Glen State Park, and Ithaca’s gorges. The city of Watkins Glen, less than an hour from Bath, is also home to Watkins Glen International, the sports car racing facility and host of the United States Grand Prix. Bath is also only a half hour drive from the historic city of Corning, home to the Corning Glass Museum, and the Rockwell Museum of Art. Bath is only a short drive from larger cities such as Rochester, Buffalo, and Binghamton.

Cost of living: The average rent is \$616 per month, and the average cost of a home is \$92,500.

Climate: Bath experiences four distinct seasons, with an average snowfall of 51 inches per year.

Transportation: Although there is a local bus route, the majority of people get to and from Bath VA by car.

Local Attractions:

[Letchworth State Park: "Grand Canyon of the East"](#)

[Corning Museum of Glass](#)

[The Rockwell Museum](#)

[Finger Lakes Wine Country](#)

[Watkins Glen State Park](#)

[Ithaca Gorges](#)

[Greek Peak Mountain Resort](#)

[The New York State Fair](#)

[Finger Lakes Boating](#)

[Auto Racing and Nascar](#)