Psychology Internship

**Accreditation Status**
The doctoral internship program at the WJB Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, SC was funded in 2011. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association as of May 30, 2014. Our program is also a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and follows the match process.

**Psychology Setting**
The WJB Dorn VAMC has been an approved training site for psychiatry residents, medical residents, social work interns, and nursing students for over 20 years. For more information on the WJB Dorn VAMC, please go to the web site: [http://www.columbiasc.va.gov/](http://www.columbiasc.va.gov/)

Within the Medical Center, psychology training is mainly conducted in the context of the Mental Health Service Line (MHSL), a multidisciplinary department including professionals from the following disciplines: psychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, clinical pharmacy and addictions therapy. The mission of the MHSL is to provide quality patient care, training and research. The Psychology Internship Clinical Training Director and the Psychology Internship Training Committee members administer the majority of psychology training activities.

Currently, there are over 30 doctoral level psychologist positions through the WJB Dorn VAMC, several of which are assigned to one of our Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). The psychologists have interests and expertise in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, primary care & health psychology (Patient Aligned Care Team/Behavioral Health), psychological assessment, military sexual trauma (MST), neuropsychology, traumatic brain injury (TBI), pain psychology, end of life issues, geropsychology, suicide prevention, and serious mental illness. Psychology staff come from diverse academic backgrounds and ascribe to a range of theoretical orientations including cognitive behavioral, psychodynamic, experiential, interpersonal, existential, and gestalt.

**Training Model and Program Philosophy**
The WJB Dorn VA Psychology Internship Training Program adheres to the Practitioner-Scholar Model of academic training and practice. A generalist approach to training is believed to set a firm foundation for professional competence. At WJB Dorn VAMC we believe a core general base is needed prior to becoming a competent and skilled specialist. The goals are to train interns to deal with problems found in the VA medical system, as well as other medical and mental health settings. We facilitate and encourage global learning that is culturally sensitive and diverse and promotes creativity, problem solving, empirically based and supported practices, scholarly inquiry, and good clinical judgment. It is the intention of the internship training program to allow interns to choose specific areas of interest to explore and develop further, while obtaining a general understanding of the veteran and general population. Our application of the Practitioner-
Scholar Model can be seen in the core design of the WJB Dorn VA internship training program and is demonstrated throughout the training year.

The training year focuses on the practical application of scholarly knowledge through assessment, diagnostics, treatment, training, research, inter and multi professional collaboration, supervision, and professional development. The intention is to build upon an intern's knowledge base, and extend that knowledge to specific situations and obstacles encountered during the internship year, thus preparing the intern for a post-doctoral residency and the entry-level practice of professional psychology. Interns are intimately involved in direct patient care in all treatment settings, while taking increasing responsibility for treatment decisions as their knowledge and skill level increases. Interns are expected to begin to understand their own limitations and strengths while demonstrating professional behavior and conduct.

**Program Goals & Objectives**

The goals and objectives of this program reflect our dedication to providing a broad training experience designed to prepare Interns for working in a variety of settings. Each trainee is measured on many aspects of 9 profession-wide competencies to ensure they are prepared for independent practice by the end of the training year. The 9 competencies are as follows:

1. Broad-Based Skills in Psychological Assessment
2. Broad-Based Skills in Psychological Interventions
4. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills
5. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behavior
6. Supervision Skills
7. Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills
8. Understanding of Ethical and Legal Standards
9. Sensitivity to Individual and Cultural Diversity

**Program Structure**

The training program at WJB Dorn VAMC offers a choice in one year long rotation (General Outpatient Mental Health Service or Patient Aligned Care Team/Behavioral Health (PACT/BH)) and two six-month specialty rotations (Trauma Recovery Program (PTSD), Psychosocial Recovery, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and Poly-Trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)). The program may also include a brief rotation on the mental health inpatient unit (Recovery East), which will occur at the beginning or end of the internship year. Rotation placements are in the clinical settings in which direct patient care occurs. In these placements interns participate in all or most of the duties of the psychologist working in that setting. Initially, training may involve considerable instruction, observation, and modeling, depending on the prior preparation and skill level of the intern. However, with time and experience, interns assume greater levels of responsibility. As mentioned, our intent is to prepare our interns to approximate full professional functioning during the internship year, thereby assisting in a successful start to the post-doctoral or entry-level professional position.

The main rotation placements occupy two full days a week (16 hours) for the entire year. The specialty rotations fill another two full days (16 hours) with a rotation change every six months. The fifth day a week (8 hours) is filled with formal didactic training, journal club, group supervision, supervision with the Clinical Training Director, and administrative time. This division of time is designed to allow for breadth of experience, while still providing sufficient time within a setting to achieve depth of experience. The interns' specific interest and goals are considered
and incorporated into rotations, planning and placement prior to arrival and as interest and goals change throughout the training year.

Interns and their supervisors work side-by-side in most clinical placements, at times working together in direct patient care, as co-therapists in groups, and in clinic functions. Interns have daily opportunity to closely observe supervisors perform as psychologists in the context of small and large interdisciplinary teams. The intent is for clinical skill building, as well as socialization into the profession through observation and modeling by the supervisor in the clinical setting. Following observation and modeling it is expected that discussion and inquiry follow. Socialization is also accomplished by meeting weekly for individual supervision with the main year long rotation supervisor, specialty rotation supervisor, Clinical Training Director, and through group supervision.

**Training Experiences**

**Individualized training program**

Prior to Interns starting the training year they are able to rank order their preferences for the year-long rotation and specialty rotations, while also indicating other specific areas of development, training, and growth they hope to accomplish. During the first two weeks of training, interns are introduced to the structure, procedures, and policies of the Internship Training Program, as well as important aspects of the Medical Center. Interns will attend the formal VAMC New Employee Orientation and specific Internship Orientation during the first several weeks. During the Internship Orientation time students will be asked to assess their personal areas of strength and need for growth, as well as explore what the strengths and weaknesses of their previous training experiences were. These areas will be discussed directly with the Clinical Training Director and supervisors. Expectations, evaluations, supervision, and progression of the Internship Program will be directly addressed during the Internship Orientation and in the internship handbook.

At the beginning of the year long rotation and each specialty rotation, interns will complete a goals form, which requires them to describe their individual goals for that specific placement. A copy of the intern's goals is given to the supervisor for the rotation and the Clinical Training Director as a guide to assist with obtaining training goals, and as an assessment of the intern's ongoing and changing educational needs. These goals are maintained in the intern's file.

At the middle of each rotation (year-long and specialty), interns evaluate themselves and the placement in order to identify factors that help or hinder the attainment of their specific training goals. Interns are also given feedback continuously throughout the year, and formalized performance evaluations are given at the four, six, nine and twelve month intervals during the internship year.

**Didactic training and specialized programming**

Each training year will begin with a series of didactic trainings targeted towards the common needs of interns in this specific training setting, with a focus toward ensuring that all interns have the required knowledge and skills for a successful and smooth start to the internship year. Weekly didactic topics are chosen by the Training Committee based on required core competencies, common diagnoses and problems found in the VA system, and feedback/goals of the interns. The initial trainings are intended to provide a strong foundation of knowledge and skills for all interns, regardless of past experiences. There will continue to be formalized trainings throughout the year by staff and community members. Interns are required to teach two didactic sessions per year. Once in their earlier development and once closer to the conclusion of the year. Interns will be expected to conduct other trainings, journal club contributions, case presentations/conceptualizations, and attend grand rounds as available throughout training.
Increasing independence and difficulty for patient care

Interns are provided with increasing responsibility of patient care throughout the course of the internship year. On their main rotation the case load will increase in number, complexity, and severity of patient problems. In addition to direct patient care duties, interns are required to take on other professional duties, including teaching and consultation. Thus, throughout the year supervision typically changes from close oversight to a more consultative and collegial relationship, as to support the development of the intern's professionalism.

Internship Primary Year-Long Placements

Patient Aligned Care Team/Behavioral Health (PACT/BH)
(Supervisors: Dr. Sylvia Baker-Blair)

The PACT/Behavioral Health rotation includes opportunities to work in a MH consultative capacity and as a mental health professional integrated into a Primary Care setting. The PACT/Behavioral Health Team is a multidisciplinary mental health outpatient service made up of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and mid-level providers (PA, NP). The psychologists involved with PACT/Behavioral Health are imbedded within the medical center’s Primary Care teams, encouraging inter-professional collaboration. Interns on this rotation will liaison with primary care providers regarding the psychological needs of Veterans and provide functional assessments and short-term skill-based treatments for Veterans and their families. They will have the opportunity to closely interface with the psychiatric provider on the team. Interns will receive consultation requests, complete initial intakes, support mental health assessment, provide feedback and consultation to other team members, and maintain an ongoing caseload of short-term/crisis intervention psychotherapy/health psychology patients. In addition, there may be opportunities to co-lead groups for dealing with life stressors such as stress and anger management.

An intern can expect to deal with psychological issues (e.g., anxiety, depression, PTSD) and stress that may exacerbate medical conditions, as well as to help patients with the psychological aspects of medical problems. This rotation may also gain specialized knowledge and skill in the areas of chronic pain, sexual health, neuropsychology screening and other specialized areas within health psychology that often present within the Primary Care setting. Educational opportunities include organizational meetings with in-service presentations.

General Mental Health Outpatient Clinic
(Supervisors: Dr. Paul Rasmussen)

The Mental Health Outpatient Clinic is staffed by a multidisciplinary team composed of psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers, nurses, psychiatric nurse practitioners, clinical pharmacists and specialists in vocational rehabilitation. Interns will receive training and supervision in objective and projective personality assessment, individual, group, and couples psychotherapy with a diverse clinical population. Interns will have an opportunity to receive training in the provision of evidence based and empirically supported individual therapy modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for depression and anxiety as well as evidence-based therapies for PTSD, such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE). Interns will also learn and provide evidence-based group therapy interventions including anger management, CPT for PTSD, Problem Solving Therapy for anxiety/stress coping skills, ACT for depression. Interns will be able to meet weekly with the interdisciplinary therapist work group where they will be able to discuss assessment and treatment issues for complex patients. This work group will also allow interns to be involved in systems and organizational work that is necessary to organizing therapy services for such a large and growing population.
Internship Specialty Rotations:

**Trauma Recovery Program:**  
(Supervisor: Dr. Anne Schmieg)

At Dorn VAMC we provide PTSD services in multiple settings including general outpatient and from within our PTSD Clinical Team (PCT). Interns will provide services for veterans who have experienced trauma, before, during, and after their military service. Interns will be involved in assessment (e.g., Clinical Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) and screeners or any other measures deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis), teaching coping skills, providing several treatments developed here in the PCT as well as evidence based therapies for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Seeking Safety, etc. Within the PTSD team, Interns will also be involved in team meetings, consultation with other disciplines, and will be an active member in the PTSD Research Team.

**Military Sexual Trauma:**  
(Supervisor: Dr. Anne Schmieg)

The VA is in the process of expanding its services for both male and female veterans, as the number of returning veterans continues to increase. Interns will have an exciting opportunity to learn about the unique needs of both male and female veterans, to provide individual and group therapy to those who have served in the military, and to take part in development of new programs in psycho-education and psychotherapy, tailored to the needs of Veterans who have been exposed to military sexual trauma. The VA has identified military sexual trauma as a serious issue, and provides outreach and treatment to all veterans, male and female, who report having been victims of sexual assault or harassment while serving in the military. Interns who choose a specialization in treatment of MST will be provided with enhanced training in the history, experience, and impact of MST. Evidence based treatments will also be taught and utilized during this rotation including Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT).

**Poly Trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):**  
(Supervisor: Dr. Deborah Reyes)

Poly-trauma care is for Veterans with injuries to more than one physical region / organ system that result in physical, cognitive, psychological, and / or psychosocial impairments. Some examples of Poly-trauma injuries include: traumatic brain injury (TBI), hearing loss, amputations, fractures, burns and / or visual impairment. The vast majority of our patients are veterans that have been diagnosed with a TBI, PTSD, and chronic pain. They typically have significant problems readjusting after their recent deployment. The Poly-trauma team provides comprehensive, inter-disciplinary care to the patients. Team members include a physiatrist, a clinical psychologist, a social worker, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, and a speech therapist. Our team works closely with the Operational Enduring Freedom and Operational Iraqi Freedom team members—professionals who provide case management services for individuals that are transitioning from recent conflicts (Iraq and Afghanistan). The team members also interface with other specialties (Pain Clinic, Neuropsychology, Mental Health, & Primary Care) to individually tailored rehabilitation plan designed to maximize recovery. Interns will receive training regarding the impacts of mild, moderate, and severe Traumatic Brain Injuries. There are opportunities for in-depth diagnostic assessments, cognitive screenings, individual therapy, family therapy and multi-disciplinary consultation.
Psychosocial Rehabilitation:
(Supervisor: Drs. Karly Warren & Michell Andra)

This rotation includes work with two the VHA’s hallmark recovery based programs, the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) and the Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC). The majority of the intern’s time (12 hours) will be based in the PRRC, which provides an opportunity to work with Veterans who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness, such as a psychotic, bipolar, and/or major depressive disorder, in a multidisciplinary team that includes social work, occupational therapy, nursing and peer support in addition to psychology and psychiatry. Emphasis will be placed on evidence and recovery-based individual and group interventions to promote skills acquisition and community integration. There will also be opportunities for conducting psychological assessments, case consultation, program development, quality management, and leadership development. The remainder of the rotation (4 hours) will be with the Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC), who functions as a champion and advocate for the recovery model, and serves as recovery ombudsman to the mental health leadership, program managers, and staff on recovery and implementation of recovery oriented services. Much like the PRRC, focus will be on the promotion of the recovery model via education and programming with emphasis on components of recovery including but not limited to the following: peer support, consumer-run services, stigma awareness and reduction, community integration, and empowerment via advocacy. However, while there may be some opportunity for individual or group clinical work with the LRC, the intervention focus will pertain more to mental health service line, facility, and VISN staff and programs which will, in turn, provide the intern with exposure to varied work groups and levels of leadership. This aspect of the rotation is ideal for individuals wanting to learn more about organizational behavior/leadership, program development and evaluation.

Requirements for Completion
Interns are expected to progress along a continuum of competence during the internship year in the areas of assessment, clinical interventions, consultation, supervision, and professional development. To maintain good standing, interns actively participate in clinical assignments, are receptive to and responsive to supervision, and conduct themselves in a way that is ethical and professionally appropriate. Interns in good standing demonstrate punctuality, are receptive to clinical assignments, complete clinical responsibilities and documentation in a timely manner, recognize professional limitations, and seek supervisory assistance as needed.

Each intern will successfully complete the following requirements:
1. A total of 2080 internship hours (includes 10 federal holidays, 13 vacation days and 13 sick days),
2. Meet the requirements for core competencies as listed on the Competency Evaluation Form.
3. Two specialty rotations of 16 hrs per week and one primary placement in either PACT/BH or Outpatient MH of 16 hrs per week, with a total of 32 clinical hours per week combined
4. A minimum of 3 assessment evaluation throughout the year, of which each assessment must include cognitive assessment as well as projective and objective personality assessment,
5. Two didactic presentations including topic discussion and case conceptualization resulting in a satisfactory evaluation

Early in the internship year, and early on specific rotations, interns are expected to need fairly close supervision, including observation under certain circumstances. Interns are expected to become more autonomous in their professional activities over the course of each rotation, and across the internship training year. By the end of the internship year, interns are expected to be
able to function independently or with minimal supervision in a number of core professional areas. These include the ability to understand referral questions; select, administer, and interpret appropriate evaluation instruments; conduct diagnostic interviews; clearly communicate findings in writing and in person; apply psychotherapeutic techniques; display sensitivity to issues of diversity; and maintain high ethical and professional standards. In more specialized areas, such as neuropsychology, increased competence is expected, but interns are not expected to practice independently in all areas by the end of the training year.

Interns are formally evaluated quarterly during the internship year. Interns must maintain adequate performance in core areas to remain in good standing. Interns who do not maintain this minimal level of competence will have a remediation plan initiated.

Facility and Training Resources
The WJB Dorn VA Mental Health Department has grown substantially over recent years. Interns have access to space as needed on assigned placements, outpatient clinics including Primary Care, and testing areas. Our medical center includes state of the art computer equipment, with access to the hospital network, and Windows-based software including computerized patient record system (CPRS), VA Vista, and Office-based applications. Internet and intranet LAN connectivity are provided. WJB Dorn VA maintains a medical library on station, as well as having sharing agreements with the USC School of Medicine library. The VA maintains a wide lending library for access to computerized journal articles. Interns receive needed clerical and administrative support and assistance through a specified Mental Health Clinic administrative staff member, as well as through other Medical Center staff if needed to complete clinical duties elsewhere in the hospital.

Privacy Policy
Our privacy policy is clear: we will collect no personal information about you when you visit our Website. The faculty is committed to promoting intern development, respecting intern privacy, and avoiding the misuse of power that can accompany dual roles. Towards these ends, the faculty supervisors respect the ability of interns to choose what personal information is appropriate for disclosure to faculty.

Application & Selection Procedures

Overview
The WJB Dorn VAMC abides by all APPIC and APA guidelines and requirements regarding internship application and selection procedures.

The APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation and the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) can be contacted at:
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC, 20002-4242
Phone: (202) 336-5979
Fax: (202) 336-5978

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program is a member of APPIC. An internet link to the current APPIC Match Policies is available at www.appic.org. The WJB Dorn VAMC Internship APPIC Match number is 2174. The first class of Psychology interns started on August 15th of 2011.
Eligibility

All applicants for VA internships must be U.S. citizens enrolled in an APA-accredited Ph.D. or Psy.D. program in clinical or counseling psychology. To be considered for acceptance, a candidate must be approved by his or her Director of Clinical Training as ready for internship. All applicants must have completed three full years of graduate study leading to the doctorate (less than three years may be acceptable with special recommendation by the sponsoring university). Graduate training will have included coursework and formally supervised applied clinical training in the provision of psychological assessment and psychotherapy. Applicants will have demonstrated (1) the ability to apply assessment and intervention skills in applied settings, (2) knowledge of and adherence to ethical guidelines, and (3) interpersonal skills necessary for the practice of psychology.

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program recommends documentation of 500 hours of completed AAPI Doctoral Intervention/Assessment Hours. Experience gained outside of the doctoral program can be considered if supervision was provided by a licensed mental health professional. Projected hours cannot be counted in the 500 hour total. In addition, the applicant will ideally have clear assessment skills in administration, scoring and integrated assessment report writing (~10 integrated reports) or documented evidence of these required skills. The applicant should have educational training and/or practicum experience in commonly used diagnostic instruments such as the MMPI–2, PAI, Wechsler scales, and projective techniques.

As an equal opportunity training program, this internship welcomes and strongly encourages applicants from all qualified candidates, regardless of racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, disability or minority status.

Application Requests

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program uses the APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI) available at the APPIC website (www.appic.org). Requests for information beyond what is described in this website may be made by email to:

Anna.Schmieg@va.gov

by mail at the address below:

Dr. Anna Schmieg
WJB Dorn VA Medical Center
Clinical Director of Psychology Training
Mental Health Care Service Line, Building 106 (116)
6439 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, S.C. 29209

Applications

Applicants must register for the Match using the online registration system on the Match website at www.natmatch.com/psychint. It is recommended that students register for the match by October 15. Our Match number is 2174.
Each applicant is required to submit standard electronic online AAPI application materials including the following:

- Cover letter indicating intent to apply to the internship program and internship training interests,
- Completed APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI),
- Curriculum Vita,
- Three letters of evaluation from individuals familiar with recent academic and clinical performance. At least one letter of evaluation should be from a clinical supervisor with direct knowledge of the applicant's clinical skills, and
- Official transcripts of all psychology graduate training.

All materials must be received by the designated submission date each year.

Selection Process

**EEO Guidelines** – The WJB Dorn VA MC Psychology Internship Program adheres to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) guidelines in the selection of intern applicants. Equal employment opportunity is the requirement, based in both law and regulations, that agencies provide employees a full opportunity to enter into, function in, and progress in their careers based on their abilities and performance, rather than on such non-merit factors as race, religion, sex, or age.

Providing equal opportunity requires a coordinated effort among faculty supervisors, VA managers, EEO program officials, and HR officials. Working together, they seek to ensure that all employees are protected: with the opportunity to compete fairly for positions for which they are qualified, by receiving objective ratings based on their performance, and from being subjected to personnel decisions based on non-merit factors. In short, the objective of the EEO program is not to provide special or unfair advantage to any groups or individuals, but rather, to ensure that employees are not unfairly disadvantaged based on non-merit factors that are outside their control. Please refer to [http://www.va.gov/orm/docs/eeo_Policy.pdf](http://www.va.gov/orm/docs/eeo_Policy.pdf) for further EEO information.

**Application Reviews** – All applications are screened for mandatory requirements and program fit by the Clinical Training Director and other appropriate faculty members. Applicants who appear to be a good match for our internship program and meet mandatory requirements may be offered an interview. Applicants who are not selected for interview, and thus further consideration, following the above reviews will be notified through an email by November 15th. Applicants selected for interviews will be contacted by the Clinical Training Director to schedule an onsite interview.

**Applicant Interviews** – The WJB Dorn VA MC Psychology Internship Program establishes two interview dates, with an additional alternate date to be used in the event of inclement weather. Interview dates will likely be the first and second Wednesday in December of each year. Applicants selected for interviews will be contacted by the Training Director or designee to confirm an interview date. Applicants will receive e-mail confirmation of the interview date, along with an interview schedule, directions to the facility, and information on local lodging. On the day of interviews, applicants are given an overview of the training program by the Training Director, an introduction to available faculty members, and then are interviewed individually by two or more faculty members. Applicants will have the opportunity to discuss programs and receive a brief tour of the facility. Applicants are encouraged to follow up with phone calls or emails to faculty if they have further questions following the completion of the interview day.

**Applicant Ratings** – At least two faculty members review and rate each applicant packet prior to in-person interviews. Faculty members evaluate clinical training, assessment training, clinical experience, assessment experience, and letters of recommendation. Clinical training
and experience are rated based on breadth and depth, as well as consistency with the program’s generalist training philosophy. Assessment training and experience are evaluated for the variety of assessment instruments, number of instruments administered, and number of integrated reports written. Experience with both objective and projective assessment is preferred, either through training or practicum experience. For both clinical and assessment experience, supervised practicum experiences are given more weight.

Letters of recommendation are reviewed to determine applicants’ strengths and weaknesses, acceptance of and response to supervision, demonstration of professional behaviors and ethical practice, and personal characteristics indicative of successful internship completion. Considerable weight is given to how well the prospective intern’s professional experience and career goals match with the training philosophy and goals of the WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program and relevant contribution to the program based upon evident individual/cultural diversity. These factors are also evaluated through the interview, and rated by the interviewer, as are professional demeanor and interview style.

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program faculty prefers applicants who have their dissertation proposal approved by the start of the internship.

**Applicant Rankings** – Following applicant interviews, members of the Psychology Training Committee, primarily members of the Internship Supervision Committee, meet to review application packages and interview performance. Applicants are ranked based on interview ratings, ratings of applicant materials, and discussion among the Training Committee members. Applicants are placed on a rank order list, and low-rated applicants may be eliminated at this time. The final rank list is submitted to National Matching Services (NMS).

The preceding criteria serve as general guidelines for rating and ranking applicants. These guidelines are not inflexible and reviewers must rely on professional judgment when evaluating applicants that do not meet the standards noted above.

**Applicant Matching** - The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program participates in the Matching Program administered by National Matching Services Inc. (NMS) on behalf of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Only those applicants who participate in the Match can be matched to our internship program. All applicants must apply through APPIC utilizing the online application process. Applicants can request an applicant agreement package from NMS through their web site at http://www.natmatch.com/psychint/ or by e-mail at: psychint@natmatch.com.

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship submits a final rank list via computer to National Matching Services (NMS). At the appointed time, the list shown by NMS is verified by computer link. Applicant candidates are advised of their status in the match according to the NMS program schedule. Acceptances and notification procedures follow the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) Match Policies. This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant. On the designated match day, NMS sends an e-mail to the program and to the applicants indicating the final outcome of the match. If positions remain open we will also participate in the second APPIC match.

The WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship APPIC Match number is **2174**. APPIC Match Policies are available on the APPIC web site: [http://www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org)

**Intern Appointment** - On match day, the Clinical Training Director or designee calls each intern by telephone to confirm that he or she has matched with our program. A letter of confirmation is sent within 72 hours of notification. Each selected intern must respond in writing that he or she accepts the appointment with the WJB Dorn VAMC Psychology Internship Program.
When these letters are received from the new intern, copies of the application folders are sent to Human Resources Management Service (HRMS), which will then begin the process of employment. The applicants are required to complete an OF 612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment) and to complete a physical exam.

The appointment to an intern position is contingent upon the individual's application being cleared through a national data bank to screen for possible ethical and legal violations. All interns must pass employment screenings through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, List of Excluded Individuals and the National Practitioner Health Care Integrity and Protection Data Bank, as well as a fingerprint check, before the appointment becomes official. An intern must also pass the pre-employment physical completed by a VA hospital before he or she can begin the internship.

Applicants who match with our site must also be aware of the following Federal Government requirements: The Federal Government requires that male applicants to VA positions who were born after 12/31/59 must sign a Pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they are employed. All interns will have to complete a Certification of Citizenship in the United States prior to beginning the internship. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees. Interns and Fellows may be required to be tested prior to beginning work and once on staff, they are subject to random selection as are other staff members. Interns and Fellows are also subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens.

New interns also complete Online Cyber Security Awareness Training, Privacy Training and sign the Rules of Behavior before arriving for orientation. After all documentation is complete, interns will be ready to start at the beginning of the pay period around the end of July/beginning of August.

All intern information is kept in a locked confidential file. This file is kept confidential; however, it will be available for site visitors for the next accreditation review with the understanding that specific identifying content will be kept confidential by the site visitors.

**Information about Columbia, SC can be obtained from these websites:**


http://www.columbia,cv.com/

http://www.columbiasouthcarolina.com/
**Initial Post-Internship Positions**

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

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<tr>
<td>School district/system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent practice setting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently employed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed to another field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
### Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Amount/Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns</td>
<td>$23,974.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?</td>
<td><strong>YES</strong> No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If access to medical insurance is provided:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainee contribution to cost required?</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of family member(s) available?</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of legally married partner available?</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of domestic partner available?</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)</td>
<td>104 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave</td>
<td>104 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave? **Yes** No

Other Benefits (please describe): 10 paid Federal Holidays

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table
Internship Program Admissions
Date Program Tables are updated:

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program’s policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

The training program at WJB Dorn VAMC offers a choice in one year long rotation (General Outpatient Mental Health Service or Patient Aligned Care Team/Behavioral Health (PACT/BH)) and two six-month specialty rotations (Trauma Recovery Program (PTSD or Military Sexual Trauma), Psychosocial Recovery, Poly-Trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Suicide Prevention). The program may also include a brief rotation on the mental health inpatient unit (Recovery East), which will occur at the beginning or end of the internship year. Rotation placements are in the clinical settings in which direct patient care occurs. In these placements interns participate in all or most of the duties of the psychologist working in that setting. Initially, training may involve considerable instruction, observation, and modeling, depending on the prior preparation and skill level of the intern. However, with time and experience, interns assume greater levels of responsibility. As mentioned, our intent is to prepare our interns to approximate full professional functioning during the internship year, thereby assisting in a successful start to the post-doctoral or entry-level professional position.

The main rotation placements occupy two full days a week (16 hours) for the entire year. The specialty rotations fill another two full days (16 hours) with a rotation change every six months. The fifth day a week (8 hours) is filled with formal didactic training, journal club, group supervision, supervision with the Clinical Training Director, and administrative time. This division of time is designed to allow for breadth of experience, while still providing sufficient time within a setting to achieve depth of experience. The interns’ specific interest and goals are considered and incorporated into rotations, planning and placement prior to arrival and as interest and goals change throughout the training year.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: 500 Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: 500 Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

All applicants for VA internships must be U.S. citizens enrolled in an APA accredited Ph.D. or Psy.D. program in clinical or counseling psychology. To be considered for acceptance, a candidate must be approved by his or her Director of Clinical Training as ready for internship. All applicants must have completed three full years of graduate study leading to the doctorate (less than three years may be acceptable with special recommendation by the sponsoring university).