

Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Clinical Psychology Externship



Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center



Chicago Skyline

Externship Information (2013-2014)

The Jesse Brown VAMC is located two miles west of the Loop, Chicago's central downtown district. It is part of Chicago's large West Side medical district, which also includes Cook County Hospital, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center and the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. JBVAMC serves the almost one million veterans who reside in the catchment area. Many veterans are eligible for VA health care because they are disabled or economically disadvantaged.

Academic Affiliation

Jesse Brown VAMC is affiliated with the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and Northwestern University Medical School. About 250 medical residents and 300 medical students rotate through the medical center each year, receiving training in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, dentistry, radiology, orthopedics, and more. Additionally, students from nearby academic institutions receive training at the medical center in disciplines such as psychology, nursing, pharmacy, social work and audiology. Moreover, Jesse Brown VAMC is one of the most competitive practicum sites in the Chicago area, drawing extern applicants from over a dozen local APA approved clinical and counseling psychology programs.

Accreditation Status

The JBVAMC Clinical Psychology Internship Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association and adheres to the guidelines of the Association of Psychology

Postdoctoral and Internship Centers. The American Psychological Association accreditation has been maintained continuously since our first accreditation in 1979. More information on accreditation is available through: Commission on Accreditation, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 First St NE, Washington, D.C., 20002-4242; the web site is <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/> and the phone number is 202-336-5965.

Chicago Location

Chicago is the third largest metropolitan area in the United States. Jesse Brown VAMC is convenient to expressways and public transportation including buses and trains that transport to and away from the entrance of our building within blocks. Chicago is a hub of arts in the Midwest, the home of world famous architecture, and dozens of annual festivals. The music and food scene are especially robust and wildly diverse. Further information about Chicago is available at www.CityofChicago.org

JBVAMC Patient Population

Veterans are defined as anyone who has served in the Armed Forces, whether wartime or peacetime. Veterans commonly eligible for VA services include:

- Veterans who are indigent and/or disabled
- Veterans of any age who has sustained a service-related medical or psychiatric condition
- Veterans of combat or crisis situations with PTSD
- Younger veterans typically from the OEF/OIF/OND conflicts or era who present with psychological, psychosocial, and cognitive difficulties resulting from their military experiences
- Aging veterans who have chosen the VA as their primary medical provider, and who frequently present with chronic psychiatric illness and/or developing cognitive impairment

The veterans at the JBVAMC are diverse in cultural, socioeconomic, religious, gender and educational backgrounds. We serve a predominately urban population, and mostly African-American and male population. Younger male and female veterans are increasingly utilizing medical services here, especially since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began. Many have multiple medical and psychiatric problems. Some of our veterans have college or graduate degrees, but the majority have a high school degree or less education. Common psychological problems include combat trauma, sexual trauma, depression, personality disorders, a myriad of anxiety disorders, and psychosis. Many veterans also struggle with addictions, homelessness and socioeconomic strain. Our veterans often display remarkable resilience and resourcefulness under very difficult circumstances. They are generally open about their problems and honest with themselves about their need for help. More information about our patient population is available in our [diversity statement](#).

The Psychology Supervisors

There are 27 doctoral-level clinical psychologists at Jesse Brown VA, as well as two administrative support personnel. Most of the psychology supervisors have faculty appointments in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago or at Northwestern Medical School. More information about the psychology supervisors is available on the web site within the staff section.

Training Philosophy

The Department of Veterans Affairs employs more psychologists and trains more psychology interns than any other American institution. We are proud to be part of the training mission of the VA. The training philosophy of the Jesse Brown VAMC psychology internship program is as follows:

Scientist-practitioner model: We adhere to a scientist-practitioner model of clinical training which involves informed practice and considerable mentoring. In supervision, externs share their decision-making process, formulate a course of action using their scientific knowledge of psychology, follow through with decisions, and critique the results of interventions. Staff members refer externs to appropriate professional research and writings so that they become aware of the empirical validation for treatments provided. Empirically based interventions are emphasized and taught. Our supervisors are diverse in ability to provide both evidence based treatment interventions and more traditional psychodynamic interventions for individuals and groups.

Cultural and systems competence: Externs assess the patient's social system, which includes the patient, the family, ethnic and cultural issues, and the community. Also, externs participate with the patient's treatment team and other programs of medical center. Externs are trained to meet the special needs of mental health service delivery to urban, ethnic minority populations.

Training Program Overview

Externs are provided various training options; however, **no rotations can be promised to an extern.** Each rotation is supervised by a psychology staff member:

Structure

Externship rotations involve either 1) two six-month rotations (July-December, and January-June), or 2) one year-long rotation (July-June).

Externs must be willing to dedicate 20 hours/week to their physical presence and involvement in the psychology externship program. Of the 20 hours, a minimum of 1 hour of supervision, along with 1.5 hours of mandatory extern didactic seminar participation is expected.

Most rotations involve a combination of assessment, psychotherapy, individual and group intervention, and frequently involve interdisciplinary team consultation and involvement.

Rotation Options ****Please note that the following rotation options are subject to change pending staff supervision availability.****

- **Outpatient Health Psychology** (the Health Psychology Department includes various subspecialties including Comprehensive Health Psychology, Biofeedback Clinic, MOVE! Program, Pain Clinic Program, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention)
- **Day Hospital Program:** interviewing and assessment, intensive case management, individual and group therapy, strong interdisciplinary treatment team involvement, crisis intervention
- **Addiction Treatment Program:** individual and group intervention
- **Drug Dependency Treatment Clinic:** individual and group intervention, Methadone Maintenance Clinic, case management
- **Outpatient Mental Health:** primarily outpatient psychotherapy, diverse diagnoses including both Axis I & II
- **CBOC Outpatient Mental Health:** primarily outpatient psychotherapy and tele-health options, individual and group interventions, diverse diagnoses including both Axis I & II in our Indiana Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Crown Point, Indiana
- **PRRC Program:** psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery programs for patients with chronic serious mental illness
- **PRRTP/SARRTP:** residential treatment work in both psychiatric and substance abuse programs
- **PTSD Program:** assessment and treatment; may include various programs subspecialties including military sexual trauma, combat trauma, substance use and trauma, and evidence based treatment interventions for trauma
- **Military Sexual Trauma:** brief diagnostic assessments, interdisciplinary team consultation, psycho-education for veterans, individual and group psychotherapy with a MST population include anxiety disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders, and personality disorders utilizing evidence based interventions and cognitive-behavioral therapy (year-long)
- **OEF/OIF/OND Outreach and Treatment:** involves individual and group therapy, case management, outreach, some assessment of veteran returning from recent combat experiences (year-long)
- **Inpatient Psychiatry:** both assessment, individual and group therapy
- **Neuropsychology:** predominantly assessment, must have completed coursework in Biological Basis of Psychology, Neuropsychology Assessment
- **Psychiatric Assessment Clinic (PAC):** PAC is the primary entry point for referrals to all psychiatric services, both inpatient and outpatient. Trainees develop their psychological interviewing skills, and learn to make differential diagnoses. A key skill to be acquired is the ability to make rapid assessments and dispositions, and to provide crisis intervention.

The Seminar Series

Externs attend a mandatory weekly seminar every Friday, each lasting 1.5 hours. Topics are chosen for their clinical relevance, and focus strongly on aspects of psychological assessment, case conceptualization, and treatment interventions. Some seminars are devoted to topics concerning diversity, various therapeutic approaches and interventions, and involve discussion of journal articles related to the specific topic.

Supervision and Evaluation

Individual Supervision and Evaluation

The vast majority of supervision at Jesse Brown VAMC is individual supervision. Each trainee is assigned supervisors for each rotation. Hours of formal one-to-one supervision range from 1-2 per week. The supervisors are the psychologists who work in those program areas. The externs may evaluate their supervisors and present these evaluations in written form. Also, the supervisors provide externs an assessment of their current state of professional development in a written evaluation. Scheduled evaluations occur at the end of each major rotation. The trainees' academic directors of training are provided with written progress summaries at the completion of each rotation, and throughout the training year as needed.

Library Resources

Our trainees may use our VA's Medical Library. Also, the University of Illinois Library of the Health Sciences, is just two blocks away. Our Medical Library supports our efforts in patient care, patient education, teaching and research. Many online resources are available through internet access in each office, including OVID and Medline.

Start Date: Anticipated start date is Monday, July 8, 2012 and lasts a duration of 12 months (subject to change).

Applications

To apply, please forward a current letter of interest, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, letter of readiness from your academic DOT, and two letters of recommendation to the below address. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

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