

Louisville Robley Rex VAMC

Predoctoral Psychology Internship



Setting and Presence of Psychology: Since 1952, Robley Rex VAMC has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. We consider it our privilege to serve their health care needs in any way we can. Services are available to more than 150,000 veterans living in a 35-county area of Kentuckiana, including both urban and rural settings, at both the main VA Medical Center and our community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs). The Psychology services are integrated within the Department of Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service. Many health psychology training opportunities are available, such as a strong health psychology presence with a well-integrated primary care mental health program (PCMHI) and psychology in geriatrics and hospice and palliative care. Psychologists on staff have diverse theoretical orientations, clinical expertise, and interests.

Training Model and Philosophy: Our independent training program focuses on breadth of clinical skills, while highlighting comprehensive mental health care. This includes a focus on knowledge and consideration of research guiding clinical practice. Emphasis is placed on utilization of empirically supported treatments. The internship integrates both major and minor rotations with a general mental health setting, allowing for interns to develop skills in a variety of settings and create a unique training experience. This is a full-time, 2000 hour predoctoral psychology internship that begins on August 21st, 2017. The stipend amount is \$24,014.

Program Goals:

- Interns will develop competence with assessing and diagnosing mental health disorders that appear in the veteran population.
- Interns will develop competence in providing psychological interventions to adults with a range of diagnoses. Trainees will be exposed to a range of therapeutic orientations and techniques with an emphasis on empirically supported modalities.
- Interns will develop competence in conducting psychological evaluation and assessment of veterans with a variety of diagnostic concerns. An emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and administration/interpretation of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality and cognitive abilities.
- Interns will develop competence with crisis intervention and the assessment of suicidal/homicidal ideation and behaviors.

- Interns will develop competence in providing effective consultation, feedback, and translation of psychological principles to colleagues, other disciplines, patients, and families.
- Interns will develop personal characteristics and professional behavior consistent with professional standards and ethical guidelines. They will learn to how to build and utilize interprofessional relationships.
- Interns will develop the ability to utilize supervision well and how to incorporate feedback into their practice. They will learn VA policies and how to administer clinical treatment within the VA system.
- They will display an understanding and appreciation of ethnic, cultural, gender, and sexual diversity.
- Interns will develop competence with the ethical and legal practice of clinical psychology.

These goals are achieved through participation in a variety of clinical and scholarly activities. Possible clinical activities include rotations within:

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| ▪ Team-Based Outpatient Mental Health Care (General Psychology) | ▪ Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) |
| ▪ Inpatient Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | ▪ The Posttraumatic Clinical Team (PCT) |
| ▪ Geriatric Services | ▪ Neuropsychology |
| ▪ Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program | ▪ Compensation & Pension |
| | ▪ General Assessment |
| | ▪ PTSD/SUD Treatment |

Interns will train one day a week as members of an outpatient general mental health care team throughout the internship year. The duration of this placement allows adequate time for interns to become fully integrated into an interdisciplinary care team and to develop an experiential knowledge of team care provision. Each of these teams will provide interns regular supervision by a licensed psychologist and an opportunity to evaluate and treat a variety of mental health disorders experienced by veterans.

In addition to participation in outpatient general mental health, interns choose among major and minor rotations from the above programs. The major rotations are two days/week while the minor rotations are one day/week. All rotations are six months in length. During these rotations and through didactic seminars, interns will be exposed to a variety of treatment modalities and empirically-based treatments, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, CBT for Insomnia, CBT for Depression, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing. Generalist training is also facilitated through individual and group supervision, in addition to weekly didactic trainings.

Robley Rex VA Health Care System Location: The Robley Rex VAMC is located near downtown Louisville, Kentucky. In addition to our main facility in Louisville, we offer services in eight CBOCS.

Application Process: This is our second year participating in the APPIC Match and we train three interns each year. Our application deadline is November 18th, 2016 and all interviews will be by telephone. Our **Match Number is 234711**. Our internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at our training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant. Per VA policy, only US citizens who are completing APA- or CPA-accredited doctoral programs are eligible for appointment for VA Psychology Doctoral Internships.

Accreditation: As a new program welcoming our first internship class in August 2015, we are **not** accredited by APA. Per Veteran's Administration Central Office and Office of Academic Affiliations guidelines, graduates of our program will be ensured eligibility for future VA employment. We are a member of APPIC.

Contact Information: For a more detailed description of training opportunities please contact the Training Director, Shay Kirkpatrick, Psy.D. at shay.kirkpatrick@va.gov or (502) 287-4926.