

Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center-
Oklahoma City Veterans Administration
Healthcare System

Residency in Clinical Psychology

Program Brochure 2019-2020



The OUHSC- OKC VA Clinical Psychology Residency Consortium is accredited by the American Psychological Association. It has 9 different emphasis areas in child and adult clinical psychology located at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) and the OKC VA Health Care System (OKC VA). The OUHSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, the OKC VA, and affiliated training sites are located together in a large medical complex.

The Residency program is consistent with the overall training missions, culture and goals of the OUHSC and the VA which are both committed to providing quality training to a wide range of health professionals. The OUHSC and the VA are also committed to ensuring students in all health disciplines are fully prepared, both academically and clinically. This training includes an emphasis on the provision of clinical services; working in multidisciplinary settings; involvement and understanding of research; and providing a challenging, supportive teaching and learning environment.

Program Description

The Clinical Psychology Residency is a 12-month full time program that is designed to provide clinical training experiences in one of the emphasis areas of interest, and a minimum of 2 hours of regularly scheduled individual supervision. Residents have the opportunity to choose clinical and research activities to fit with their goals and interests through their proposed training plan, which each resident develops in their first month of residency. Additionally, Residents work closely with one or more faculty members to develop and execute at least one research project or scholarly project during year. In addition to formal supervision, they are also provided with mentorship on professional development throughout the training year.

Our residents are required to complete a minimum 1000 clinical hours; a minimum of 500 hours must be direct service face-to-face hours. The other 50% of the time or 1000 hours may be devoted to professional development; completing the research project, attending didactics related to professional development, professional ethics and/or cultural diversity. This non-clinical time also accounts for other training and didactics within the emphasis areas. Finally, the Residents have their own Director's meeting and Resident Seminar for professional issues related specifically to trainees completing their postdoctoral year. The program selects individuals for specific emphasis areas within the Clinical Psychology

Aim and Competencies

The overall aim of the Clinical Psychology Residency Program is to prepare graduates for the independent practice of Health Service Psychology. It provides the Residents with advanced skills and competencies necessary to function independently. Specifically, the program provides the training experiences to achieve advanced skills within the specific focused area of interest. However, the clinical psychology residency program requires a common training aim and competencies across all emphasis areas.

By the end of training, Residents will be able to perform at an advanced level in the following competency areas:

1. Demonstrate skills in assessment sufficient to practice at an advanced level.
2. Demonstrate skills in psychological treatment/intervention sufficient to practice at an advanced level.

3. Demonstrate advanced practice skills in the provision of consultation to providers in related disciplines and function effectively in consulting roles across settings.
4. Demonstrate an advanced understanding and awareness of individual and cultural diversity and integration of these issues into professional practice.
5. Demonstrate advanced knowledge related to the integration of science and practice in clinical psychology in addition to research and methods through scholarly activity.
6. Demonstrate completion of the clinical training and supervisory experiences necessary for applying licensure in the independent practice of Psychology.
7. Demonstrate advanced professionalism with patients and colleagues and in professional situations independently across settings and contexts. This includes an understanding of professional conduct, ethics and law, and professional standards for providers of psychological services sufficient to practice at an advanced level.

Emphasis Area Descriptions

There are currently 10 positions across 9 different emphasis areas. The Adult emphasis areas located at the OKC VA include Chronic Mental Illness (1 position), Family Mental Health (1 position) Geropsychology (1 position), Health Psychology (1 position), Primary Care Mental Health (1 position), and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (1 position). We have an additional Psycho-Oncology (1 position) emphasis area which is located within the Stephenson Cancer Center and Jimmy Everest Pediatric Oncology Center. This emphasis area is primarily adult focused but also includes pediatric training experiences. The Child emphasis areas include Pediatric Psychology (2 positions) located at Children's Hospital, and Clinical Child (1 position), located at the Child Study Center.

Adult Emphasis Positions

Chronic Mental Illness

The primary training site for one-year residency with an emphasis in Chronic Mental Illness (CMI) is the Oklahoma City VA HCS. The purpose of the program is to train residents in all aspects of providing treatment and rehabilitation to the chronically mentally ill, with specific focus on developing administrative and leadership skills relevant to complex multidisciplinary settings. Residents receive training on the inpatient psychiatric unit, the Substance Treatment and Recovery (STAR) clinic, and the Veterans Recovery Center (VRC). Depending on the interest and aptitude of the resident, training possibilities would also exist in other programs such as the Ambulatory Mental Health Clinic, Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), Dialectical Behavior Therapy Program, and the PTSD program. Residents receive extensive didactic training in conjunction with the other residents at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and complete a required research/scholarly project. The expectation of the program is that by the end of their training Residents would be able to step into any health care system and provide assessment, treatment, program development, training to staff, administrative leadership, and research related to chronic mental illness. Please contact Dr. Slish, for specific information regarding training experiences.

Meredith Slish, Ph.D.

Chronic Mental Illness Emphasis Coordinator

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Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The purpose of the PTSD Emphasis Area is to prepare Residents to provide effective trauma-focused treatment to Veterans of all eras. Training focuses on Veterans who have experienced military-related trauma, which includes combat trauma, military sexual trauma (MST), and exposure to other traumatic events as a part of military service. There is also an emphasis placed on addressing the needs of Veterans following deployment. Residents gain experience working with Veterans who present with diverse range of symptom presentation and severity.

Training is provided primarily in the Trauma and Deployment Recovery Services Clinic (TDRS), a specialty outpatient clinic at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Health Care System. The Resident serves as an integral part of the clinic's interdisciplinary team, which includes 4 full-time and 1 part-time psychologists, four social workers, three psychiatrists, and a physician's assistant. The team works closely with the Transition Case Management Office, who provide case management services to OEF/OIF/OND veterans.

There is a variety of training opportunities available throughout the year. Residents are involved in clinical assessment, evidence-based individual, and group psychotherapy (such as Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure), and the measurement of treatment outcome. Alongside these key areas, residents also take part in a variety of other services including psychoeducational groups (such as Sleep and Nightmare Management or Stress Management through Mindfulness), psychotherapy groups (such as ACT, STAIR, DBT, and CBT for Chronic Pain), and community outreach (educational or awareness events, Post-Deployment Health Risk Assessments). Further customization of training year can be accomplished through the completion of a minor rotation in another clinic with an emphasis on trauma recovery, which is determined by the resident's professional interests. The TDRS clinic also serves as a rotation for pre-doctoral psychology interns and graduate practicum students. Residents have the opportunity to act as the intermediate supervisor to trainees on rotation in the clinic. Please contact Dr. Turner for specific information regarding training experiences.

Jerri Turner, Ph.D.
PTSD Emphasis Coordinator
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Family Mental Health Program

The Family Mental Health Program resides within the Oklahoma City VA Health Care System as a part of the general Mental Health Clinic (MHC). The Family Mental Health Program has a 30+ year history of developing, evaluating, and providing a range of family services at the Oklahoma City VA HCS. As such, the resident who is selected for this one-year training program will have a rich array of experiences from which to form a solid training plan while providing evidence-based and empirically supported couples and family services. This program provides a range of family services including family education and support (CARES), couples/family therapy, family consultation, and couples psycho-education (16-week TALK class). Additional family experiences may be gained through minor rotations in other programs including but not limited to the Palliative Care Unit/Community Living Center, Substance Treatment and Recovery program, and Child Studies Center (OUHSC). The resident will have opportunities to clinically supervise psychology trainees rotating through the MHC. Please contact Dr. Thrash for additional specific information regarding training experiences.

Lee Thrash, Ph.D.
Family Mental Health Emphasis Coordinator
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Geropsychology

This Geropsychology Residency training emphasizes the Pikes Peak Model for Training in Geropsychology. The aims of the one-year residency are to 1.) Develop clinical competencies in clinical Geropsychology. 2.) Develop specific competencies in telemental health technologies and working with older patients in rural settings. 3.) Develop overall competence in assessing and treating psychological, familial, and social strengths and liabilities in older adults and their families. These skills will be learned within the following interdisciplinary care team settings: Community Living Center, Palliative Care, Home Based Primary Care, CCHT/HBPC/telemental health integration, and Patient Aligned Care Teams. The Geropsychology emphasis area provides residents with an emotionally supportive learning environment in which to develop an advanced understanding of the multiple issues affecting older adults with complex medical and mental problems. We also strive to teach the necessary clinical and administrative leadership skills to provide appropriate services to older adults within an interdisciplinary setting. Residents will receive competency-based supervision, didactic training, and complete a required research project. Please contact Dr. Sorocco for additional specific information regarding training experiences.

Kristen Sorocco, Ph.D.
Geropsychology Emphasis Coordinator
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Health Psychology

This position emphasizes advanced training in consulting and collaborating in acute and outpatient medical settings. The resident assists providers with the diagnosis of behavioral disorders and symptoms that can affect health status, adaptation to illness, and compliance with treatment regimens. The clinical programs in which the Resident works include Pain Management Program, Organ Transplant Program, GI-Liver Clinic and the Smoking Cessation Program. Opportunities are also available in oncology, cardiology and pulmonology. The resident will be trained in identifying patients' readiness for active intervention and assist patients with life-style changes, as well as developing interventions to facilitate commitment and motivation of those patients who are contemplating life-style changes. The resident will have opportunities to act as the clinical supervisor to psychology trainees rotating in Health Psychology. The resident is expected to work collaboratively or independently on research relating to the integration of psychology and health care. Various didactic and clinical opportunities are available. The primary training site is the Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Please contact Dr. Tassef for specific information regarding training experiences.

John Tassef, Ph.D.
Health Psychology Emphasis Coordinator
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Primary Care Mental Health Integration

This emphasis area provides training in assessment, treatment, and consultation appropriate to an Integrated Care Model. Located on site in the VA Ambulatory Care Clinics, Residents are part of multidisciplinary (PACT) teams who collaborate to provide a continuum of preventive and restorative patient centered care to patients presenting in primary care. Residents will learn to operate in a same day access model conducting functional assessments (including suicidal risk assessments), brief evidence-based interventions and short-term therapy, and triaging to specialty mental health services when appropriate. Consultation with members of multidisciplinary teams is daily. In addition, Residents will have the opportunity to participate in groups for depression management, anxiety management, insomnia and pain management and work closely with the Diabetes Educational Program. Residents may select to do an elective (4 hours per week) in an OUHSC behavioral health program as part of this residency if desired. Please contact Dr. Fischer for more specific information regarding training experiences.

Pam Fischer, Ph.D.
Primary Care Mental Health Emphasis Coordinator
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Psycho-Oncology

The Psycho-Oncology emphasis area provides advanced knowledge and skills necessary to work within academic and hospital-based cancer treatment settings. Residents will receive supervised clinical experiences in primarily an adult oncology clinic but will also have a training experience in a pediatric oncology clinic. Fifty percent effort will be spent at the NCI-designated Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) on the OUHSC campus, providing primarily outpatient services to adults receiving treatment for various forms of cancer. Residents will spend an additional 30% of their clinical time at the Jimmy Everest Center for Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center where they will work with families, children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer and blood disorders. Additionally, residents will receive extensive didactic training, participate in professional development activities, work as part of multidisciplinary teams, and conduct research with individuals with cancer and/or blood disorders and their families. Across both adult and pediatric sites, residents will receive training in distress screening, inpatient interventions during stem cell transplant, clinical interviewing, brief assessment, clinical consultation, and psychotherapy skills, including end of life care. Opportunities for observation of neuropsychological evaluations and feedback are also available. Please contact Dr. Rachel Funk-Lawler, Psychologist at Stephenson Cancer Center for more information regarding training experiences.

Rachel Funk-Lawler, Ph.D.
Psycho-Oncology Emphasis Coordinator
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Child Emphasis Positions

Clinical Child Psychology

In this area, the Resident will have a wide range of clinical experiences with children and families involved in child maltreatment through the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Residents will have the opportunity to provide evidence-based treatment interventions with children who have been traumatized, children and adolescents with sexual behavior problems, and infants and children from substance abusing families. Residents can join a research team led by faculty members in child welfare; dissemination and implementation in evidence-based practice, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy; Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; children with problematic sexual behavior; SafeCare(r); prevention of FASD; or child maltreatment fatalities. In addition to clinical experiences and research in this position, the Resident will participate in the Interdisciplinary Training Program in Child Abuse and Neglect (ITP), a specialized training program for advanced students from medicine, psychology, law, social work, public health, and related disciplines. The Resident will be encouraged to develop their own research projects, participate in writing grant applications, and submit manuscripts for publication. For more information, contact Dr. Carisa Wilsie.

Carisa Wilsie, Ph.D.
Clinical Child Emphasis Coordinator
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Pediatric Psychology

The pediatric psychology emphasis area offers a variety of experiences in specialty areas and primary care. Residents will provide both inpatient and outpatient services during their training and receive supervision in individual and family services for children and adolescents with chronic and acute medical conditions and families seen in pediatric primary care clinics.

All rotations involve participation with multidisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive health services to families served by OU Children's Physicians' outpatient clinics and The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. Residents are encouraged to interact with all members of the team, including medical professionals and trainees, nursing staff, social workers, child life specialists, physical therapists, dietitians, genetic counselors, clinical research associates, and administrative staff. Liaison with other agencies, such as mental health providers, schools, and evidence-based practice parameters whenever feasible.

Therapy, assessment, and consultation opportunities are available for residents in pediatric psychology in a variety of clinics and inpatient services including hematology/oncology, pediatric transplant, and a hospital-wide consultation-liaison service. Specialty outpatient clinic rotations include obesity, kidney transplant, liver transplant, assessment clinic, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, and pediatric cancer, including brain tumor clinic and a late effects clinic for children and adolescents who have completed cancer treatment. Outpatient primary care services are available in a general pediatrics clinic, Fostering Hope Clinic for children and adolescents in foster care placements, and a Latino outreach clinic. Residents provide services as part of a hospital-wide inpatient consultation-liaison service, working with the families of children and adolescents with a variety of acute and chronic medical conditions. Trainees have the opportunity to consult for various medical specialties, participate as a member of multidisciplinary treatment teams, attend didactics regarding pediatrics and primary care, and participate in research projects and/or grant writing. Training takes place primarily at the Children's Hospital at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the OU Children's Physicians building. Please contact Dr. Cherry for more information.

Amy Cherry, Ph.D.

Pediatric Psychology Emphasis Coordinator

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Resident Stipends, Benefits, and Support

The base stipends currently vary from \$41,600 (OUHSC) to \$46,102 (VA) depending on funding source. Stipend levels can vary depending on budgetary restraints. Health insurance is available for all non-VA positions free of charge. The VA residents can purchase health insurance at a subsidized cost. Professional liability coverage is encouraged but at the Resident's expense. Not including holiday leave, Residents receive 13 days of sick leave; 13 days of AL (VA), 15 hours AL (OUHSC) and 5 days of academic leave. VA Residents are also allowed additional; time for VA job interviews.

Diversity Statement

Diversity, equity and inclusion are critical to the healthcare systems and training programs at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) and the OKC VA. Therefore, we strive to create a learning community where residents and faculty of all backgrounds feel welcome and supported.

Residents are provided with exposure to training opportunities within a diverse patient population and settings. The residency emphasizes cultural diversity in all aspects of the training program. In addition to

the focus on diversity within clinical, research, didactic, and supervisory experiences within the residency, a Cultural Diversity Committee offers additional input into this crucial area of training. Opportunities exist for trainees to participate on this committee with faculty, which allows for direct input on the goals of diversity-informed programming, didactics and other training experiences that may be offered during the year.

*The University of Oklahoma and the OKC VA, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, age, religion, disability, political beliefs, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to: admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Application and Selection Process

This program follows all APPIC guidelines for recruitment and selection.

Internship and Academic Preparation

Applicants must have completed all of the requirements for an APA/CPA-approved doctoral program in psychology and a one-year APA/CPA approved internship including dissertation before the beginning of the program. The Program will also accept applications from individuals who have completed all requirements of a university based APA/CPA-approved program of postdoctoral education for retraining in clinical or counseling psychology. **The VA funded positions require U.S. citizenship and completion of an APA accredited internship.**

Applications need to be submitted through the APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application Centralized Application System (**APPA-CAS**). The **Deadline for applications is January 6, 2020**. Each applicant is required to submit a complete set of application materials. In order to have your application reviewed the following are required; Central Application form, curriculum vitae, a cover letter stating professional goals for the residency and graduate transcript.

Uploaded material should include:

1. A letter of interest, including a discussion of training and career goals, including the status of your dissertation and/or completeness of all doctoral degree requirements.
2. A copy of your curriculum vitae containing background information, academic and clinical experience.
3. **Three** letters of reference.
4. A copy of your graduate transcript.

The Postdoctoral Training Director and selection committees for each area will be reviewing the applications. Interviews will be scheduled between **January 28-February 14, 2020**. All interviews are on an invitation-only basis. Please plan to stay for a full day if you are invited to come to an onsite interview. We normally schedule site visits at least two weeks in advance. Telephone/skype interviews are also available. *Offers will be made according to the APPIC Notification Date of February 24, 2020. The Residency start date is the last working day of August.*

For program inquiries, contact:

Demaree States, Program Coordinator
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