

**VISN 1 NEW ENGLAND MIRECC
VA ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP IN
MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH AND TREATMENT
AT VA BEDFORD HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**VISN 1 New
England MIRECC,
Bedford Site,
VA Bedford
Healthcare System**

200 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730



**Psychology Fellowship
Directors:**

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Fellowship Overview

The Bedford site of VISN 1 New England Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) is home to a two-year Advanced Psychology Fellowship program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment sponsored by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Housed within VISN 1 MIRECC, psychology research fellows receive mentored research training with MIRECC researchers who are working to improve treatment for Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders. Our team also conducts research on improving access to broader recovery-oriented services for this population, including VA-compensated disabilities, stable housing, and legal support. The aim of VISN 1 MIRECC is to:

Better understand the prevalence and consequences of co-occurring addictions and mental health disorders;

- Improve the treatment of Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders by developing innovative new treatments;
- Devise more effective ways to deliver established treatments; and
- Create more effective programs by training VA health care professionals in therapies with proven efficacy.

For more information on VISN 1 New England MIRECC, please visit:

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/>

The primary goal of our fellowship program is to train psychology fellows for advanced-level clinical research and practice and leadership roles in mental health through interdisciplinary specialist training. Centered in a scientist-practitioner philosophy, fellows receive individual mentorship in clinical research and training in advanced clinical practice and program administration. Fellows will develop an individualized training plan with the guidance of their identified mentor and mentorship committee. Fellows will become fully licensed and be prepared

to assume leadership roles as VA mental health care providers. As part of the broader, nationwide network of VA Advanced fellowships, fellows also receive state-of-the-art educational experiences at both the local and national level.

While the fellowship is primarily housed within MIRECC, fellows also have opportunities to work with clinical programs across levels of care including (though not limited to) the Veterans Mental Health and Addictions Program (VMHAP), Behavioral Addictions Clinic, Tobacco Cessation Program, the Domiciliary, and Inpatient Psychiatry. Fellows may also interact with researchers housed within other centers within VA Bedford Healthcare System, including the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) and the New England Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). In addition, fellows will also have the opportunity to interact and collaborate with investigators at the other site of VISN 1 MIRECC at VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

Fellows are nominated for postdoctoral fellowship appointments at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Program Philosophy & Training Model

The program follows a scientist-practitioner model, with a strong emphasis on state-of-the-art methodological approaches to clinical research and practice. Advanced clinical research training is provided through individualized mentorship with MIRECC faculty. Clinical training is offered through a variety of clinical services, with an emphasis on treating Veterans with substance use disorders, behavioral addictions, and co-occurring disorders. Training also offers state-of-the-art seminars and didactics focused on research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, education, and service delivery. Fellows devote 75% of their time to patient-oriented research and education, and 25% to direct care and other activities.

Program Goals & Objectives

The goal of the VA Advanced Fellowship Program is to offer training experiences that support the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop, conduct, and synthesize critical mental health research and to function comfortably as part of an interdisciplinary research team.

In order to fulfill the goals of fellowship training, all fellows must demonstrate an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the following areas by the completion of the fellowship program, as measured by supervisors' evaluations of the specific competencies. Progress will be tracked via the training plan, which is completed annually by the primary research mentor and training director.

1. Research Methodology: fellows will spend 75% of their time on research and related educational activities. Under the guidance of an identified mentor and mentorship team, fellows will design, implement, analyze, and disseminate results of an independent research project during their two-year fellowship. Fellows will also receive training in scientific writing, including grant writing, and support for submitting a proposal in their second year. Each year,

fellows will be required to submit at least one first-author manuscript in their area of training with one or more of their mentors.

2. Scholarly Inquiry: Key competency areas in scholarly inquiry, professional responsibility, and responsiveness to changes in the field will include:

a. Integration of Science and Practice: fellows will learn to apply the scientific literature to their clinical practice and use lessons learned from clinical practice to foster and shape their scientific hypotheses.

b. Conducting Clinically Informed Research: fellows will gain advanced skills in conducting clinically focused research pertinent to the mental health needs of today's Veterans.

3. Evidence-Based Treatments: fellows will spend 25% of their time in direct (face-to-face) clinical training in their specialty area which will serve to enhance their clinical skills, inform their research activities, and facilitate the translational component of the MIRECC mandate.

4. Professional & Ethical Development: fellows will demonstrate advanced-level competence in knowledge of Institutional Review Board (IRB) roles and responsibilities, understanding of legal and ethical issues involved in human research, and legal and ethical issues involved in the provision of mental health treatment services.

5. Teaching, Consultation, & Supervision: fellows will be prepared to be independent practitioners, researchers, and leaders in their specialty areas in mental health. They will receive didactic training and experiences to develop their abilities to seek and provide consultation and teach, mentor, and supervise trainees.

6. Program Development & Administration: fellows will demonstrate advanced-practice skills in the organization, management, and administration of their own research, provision of clinical services, and training of junior Fellows and other trainees.

7. Issues of Cultural & Individual Diversity: VA Bedford Psychology Service is fully committed to creating, maintaining, and advancing an environment of multicultural understanding and sensitivity. Fellows will be expected to continue working to develop their awareness and understanding of cultural and individual differences through supervision, consultation, and formal training opportunities offered by VA Bedford.

Fellow Performance Evaluation, Feedback, Retention, and Termination Decisions

Fellows will select a mentorship committee that will include the MIRECC Fellowship Director, a core faculty mentor, secondary research mentors, and clinical training supervisors. In collaboration with their mentorship committee, fellows will conduct an assessment of their current skills in the core competencies and then will develop an individualized training program. In support of their individually customized research and clinical learning program, each fellow

will work with research and clinical mentors whose scientific and clinical work best matches the fellow's interests and goals. Ongoing feedback will be provided during regular supervision and through less formal contact with mentors and supervisors. Formal, quarterly evaluations will involve documentation of competency on core areas and progress toward individualized training plans.

Each MIRECC fellow's progress will be monitored in several areas, including knowledge base in his/her specific area of research, clinical assessment skills, conceptual understanding of addiction-related issues and research questions, research design, relevant research methodologies, statistics and data analysis, formulation and presentation of results, and research ethics.

Clinical progress will be assessed by the fellow's clinical supervisor(s) during informal and formal supervision. Written and oral feedback will be provided to fellows several times each year. MIRECC fellows will review each evaluation form with their primary mentor before evaluation forms are signed by both the faculty member and fellow. This process will be highly interactive between the fellow and primary mentor. Training plans will be revised accordingly to reflect new goals and objectives.

Fellows conduct self-assessment of competencies and training needs at fellowship start. Formal evaluations of the competencies listed above are conducted twice each year and written feedback is provided to each fellow. The Training Committee routinely discusses fellows' progress and gives informal feedback throughout the training year.

A formal system of evaluation is used for fellows to provide feedback on their mentorship, supervision, and overall fellowship program experience. Every six months, and at the end of the training program, fellows complete formal rating forms of their experience in clinical rotations, research mentorship, and in the overall Fellowship Training Program.

Fellows are given a copy of our grievance procedures/policy at the start of fellowship training. This document provides guidelines to assist fellows who wish to file complaints against staff members. Fellowship Training Directors are also available to consult with fellows about any conflict with faculty.

At the beginning of fellowship training, fellows are given a copy of our due process policy. This document provides a definition of inadequate performance, problematic behavior, and serious conflicts, a listing of possible sanctions, and an explicit discussion of the due process procedures. To summarize, whenever a supervisor or mentor becomes aware of a fellow's inadequate performance, a serious conflict, serious problem area, or serious deficiency that seems not to be resolvable by the usual supervisory support and intervention, it is called to the attention of the Co-Directors of Training. The Co-Directors of Training will gather information regarding this problem including, if appropriate, an initial discussion with the fellow. The Co-Directors of Training will then present the situation in a meeting with the Fellowship Training Committee. A thorough review of the fellow's work and performance will be conducted, and one or more meetings with the fellow will be scheduled to hear his/her point of view. If a determination of inadequate performance/serious conflict is made, then a further decision is made by majority

vote of the Fellowship Training Committee to either (1) construct a remediation plan which, if not successfully completed, would be grounds for termination; or (2) initiate the termination procedure. However, most cases of inadequate performance/serious conflict are resolved through a remediation plan.

Program Structure

Fellows will spend 75% of their time on research and related educational activities and 25% in direct clinical care. Fellows will develop and implement a mentored research project, participate in scientific writing, grant writing, and presentations, as well as contribute to MIRECC educational activities and clinical service delivery, particularly within addictions-related settings. The Bedford Site of VISN 1 New England MIRECC is formally affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

MIRECC fellows will join a large community of medical, psychology, and other allied health trainees at VA Bedford Healthcare Center and its academic affiliates. Information regarding psychology training programs at VA Bedford can be found here: <https://www.bedford.va.gov/careers/psychologytraining.asp>.

Bedford Site, VISN 1 New England MIRECC Fellowship Faculty Interests

Victoria Ameral, Ph.D.: Psychotherapy treatment development for addiction and co-occurring conditions, continuity of addiction treatment and Veteran experiences of care, recovery-oriented outcomes, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy principles in experimental and applied addiction research.

Jay Gorman, Ph.D.: Improving the treatment of Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders by enhancing social connection and building support systems.

J. Irene Harris, Ph.D.: Developing spiritually integrated, chaplaincy-led approaches to care that reduce stigma and barriers to care, while addressing guilt, shame and spiritual distress that are often co-morbid with addictions. Developing and testing meditative approaches that reduce vulnerabilities to addiction, such as chronic pain, depression, and anxiety.

Megan M. Kelly, Ph.D.: Development of mHealth and psychosocial treatment approaches for tobacco use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders; development of social support approaches using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy applications.

Mo Modarres, Ph.D.: Application of neuroimaging and data analysis techniques, particularly using EEG and fNIRS, to characterize and understand the brain mechanisms underlying neuro-psychiatric disorders.

Lisa Mueller, Ph.D.: Developing interventions to address employment and education functioning in Veterans with addiction and mental health conditions as well as psychosocial challenges.

Maureen O'Connor, Psy.D.: Development of interventions to help improve the lives of Veterans with cognitive dysfunction (due to dementia, TBI, mental health conditions, etc.) and the family members that help care for them.

Dongchan Park, MD: Reducing systematic barriers in addressing substance use disorders and cross-cultural influences on the development of behavioral addictions.

Erin D. Reilly, Ph.D.: Development and evaluation of technology-delivered interventions (e.g., mobile apps, robotics, and websites) to assist with at-home self-management of chronic, comorbid mental and physical health conditions including (but not limited to) chronic pain, insomnia, PTSD, and depression.

Brian Stevenson, Ph.D.: Employment functioning among individuals with co-occurring addictions and mental health disorders by improving vocational rehabilitation treatment.

Chris Streeter, MD: Using yoga to treat depression and PTSD in Veterans using three dependent variables, psychological scales, heart rate variability and brain gamma amino-butyric acid (GABA) levels using magnetic resonance spectroscopy; research on alcohol, cocaine and opioid use disorders and the measurement of brain GABA levels in cocaine use disorder.

Associated Programs & Resources

Psychology Services at VA Bedford Health Care System:

VA Bedford Health Care System employs 42 psychologists along with a large number of associated staff. Psychologists are involved in a range of leadership positions around the hospital, many of whom are program directors within their respective areas. Staff areas of expertise are broad, with a particular emphasis on psychosocial rehabilitation, integrative psychotherapy, evidence-based practices, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A number of Psychology Service-run programs have received national awards for innovation in psychosocial rehabilitation, many through MIRECC. Staff psychologists are also active in a range of outside teaching and research at surrounding universities.

UMass Chan Medical School

The mission of UMass Chan Medical School is to advance the health and wellness of diverse communities throughout Massachusetts and across the world by leading and innovating in education, research, health care delivery and public service. It is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the leading medical schools in the nation for primary care education. The research enterprise received approximately \$250 million in Federal and private research grants and contracts in fiscal year 2018. The institution is committed to enhancing health and science education, ensuring community health, building a diverse workforce, and enriching lives through extensive community outreach. Located in Worcester, Mass., UMass Medical School is one of five University of Massachusetts campuses.



VISN 1 New England Knowledge Library

VISN1 Knowledge Library supports the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) mission to provide exemplary healthcare to veterans, providing state of the art library support to both clinical and research services. VISN 1 Knowledge Information Service (KIS) provides anticipatory knowledge services to VA healthcare teams, support staff, and to patients and their families and caregivers to make informed healthcare decisions. VISN 1 KIS is a benchmark of information and knowledge excellence in healthcare by providing exemplary services that are patient-centered and evidence-based. These services are delivered by an engaged, collaborative team in an integrated environment supporting knowledge transfer, knowledge management, learning, research discovery and continuous improvement.

Seminars & Didactics

Advanced educational experiences for all fellows will include the bimonthly national MIRECC Special Fellowship V-Tel Seminars. These seminars include a broad range of career-development oriented research topics, including those covering the latest research methodologies, biostatistics, intervention and services research, quality improvement methods, grant writing and funding, and career development awards.

On-site training will include VISN 1 New England MIRECC Bedford Site Research Meetings, which provide a forum for faculty and fellows to present research ideas, discuss research issues, and develop grant reviews/applications. Fellows will also participate in the weekly in-person grant writing seminar series facilitated by investigators from both the Bedford MIRECC site and invited investigators from CHOIR. The seminar series operates from fall until the end of the training year in the summer. Following the didactic portion of the seminar series, the remaining meetings are devoted to reviewing and revising participants' grant proposals. Fellows are also invited to attend broader VISN 1 MIRECC meetings, which include investigators at both VA Bedford and VA Connecticut's West Haven campus; this provides for a wider circle of feedback from highly experienced VA investigators. During the first year, fellows will also attend the series of seminars embedded in VA Bedford's psychology clinical residency program that focus on topics including diversity, ethics, professional development, and supervision.

Optional trainings include regularly occurring lecture series and other formal training opportunities through VA Bedford departments and University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Clinical Skill Development

There is a rich diversity of opportunities for fellows to receive advanced clinical training through VA Bedford programs that serve Veterans dually diagnosed with addictions and co-occurring mental health issues, medical conditions, and complex psychosocial stressors. In collaboration with their mentorship committee, the fellows will each select one site per year where they will complete a year-long clinical rotation.

Veterans Mental Health and Addictions Program (VMHAP): VMHAP treats Veterans with alcohol and drug dependence through inpatient and outpatient forms of treatment, including rehabilitation and psychiatric care.

Behavioral Addictions Clinic: Treatments in this outpatient specialty mental health clinic typically include individual and group psychotherapies (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention). This clinic also provides psychoeducation training regarding behavioral addictions to staff in inpatient and outpatient treatment programs at VA Bedford as well as clinicians at other VA facilities in VISN 1.

Tobacco Cessation Program: The Tobacco Cessation Program offers comprehensive tobacco cessation services and uses an implementation facilitation model to fully integrate tobacco treatment across VA Bedford clinics.

Domiciliary: The Domiciliary is a 50-bed, inpatient biopsychosocial rehabilitation program specifically designed to meet the needs of homeless Veterans who are expected to participate in various phases of treatment.

78F Acute Inpatient Psychiatry: 78F is an acute inpatient psychiatry unit. Veterans are admitted for brief crisis intervention, management of acute psychosis, or detoxification.

Mental Health Clinic Recovery Services: Mental Health Clinic Recovery Services is the umbrella of outpatient mental health care available through the mental health clinic, including psychiatric medications, individual and group therapy, and ongoing case management. At VA Bedford, Veterans receive outpatient mental health care under an interdisciplinary team model.

Veterans Employment Resources Program: The Veterans Employment Resources Program is an adjunct program to the clinical treatment team, supporting Veterans whose employment status has been impacted by homelessness, mental health issues, or vocational displacement. This is a placement option for MIRECC psychology fellows.

Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH): PCBH is a patient-centered, team-based service integrating mental health and primary care. To ensure that Veterans have ready access to services that can address all aspects of health and wellness, PCBH services are on-site and available directly within the primary care setting.

Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM): In MHICM, services may be provided by a team of mental health physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers who treat Veterans in their homes and in the community. MHICM helps eligible Veterans with serious mental illnesses to manage and cope with illness symptoms and live more successfully at home and in their community.

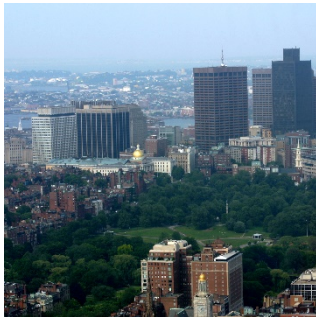
During their first year of the Fellowship, psychology fellows will also be actively involved in the clinical supervision of less advanced psychology trainees (i.e., practicum students).

These clinical experiences prepare fellows for licensure application in the state of Massachusetts. Licensure requirements for other states can typically be met if desired by the fellow and discussed with the Training Director.

Commitment to Diversity

VISN 1 MIRECC values the perspectives of diverse voices in the direction, planning, implementation, and interpretation of research as essential in informing clinical services that will serve all Veterans. We fully support individuals with differences in lived experiences, cultural backgrounds, and other diversity factors as fellows, and provide research and educational opportunities relevant to equity and diversity, health care disparities, and the responsibility of all types of health care to be relevant and sensitive for all people.

Bedford, Massachusetts, and surrounding area



Bedford is a town in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, United States. It is within the Greater Boston area, 15 miles north-west of the city of Boston. The population of Bedford was 13,320 at the 2010 census. The area has easy access to the impressive research, academic, and other urban resources, including the rich history tourism in both Boston and the Northeast in general. The area provides access to a range of recreational opportunities, including beaches, lighthouses, and boating activities, mountains and skiing

opportunities, hiking and nature trails, a wealth of museums, libraries, zoos, and educational opportunities for adults and children. Fellows can explore housing resources in a range from the urban, Boston area to rural Massachusetts and New Hampshire that are easily commutable to VA Bedford Healthcare System.



Some of our local cities and towns boast of being among the safest residential areas in the nation.



Requirements

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed on the VA psychology training homepage (<http://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>) and copied below, applicants for this fellowship program must meet additional requirements, also listed below.

VA adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a VHA Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment

1. U.S. Citizenship. HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant, or exchange visitor documents.
2. U.S. Social Security Number. All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at VA.
3. Selective Service Registration. Male applicants born after Dec. 31, 1959, must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation. All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
5. Drug Testing. Per Executive Order 12564, VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. VA will initiate termination of VA appointment for (1) any

trainee who is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test, even if that drug is legal in the state where training occurs, and/or (2) any trainee who refuses to be drug tested. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below.

7. TQCVL. To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>.

a. Health Requirements. Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine, influenza vaccine, and COVID-19 vaccine. Declinations are EXTREMELY rare. If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA. Executive Order 14043, "Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees," requires all VA employees be fully vaccinated prior to beginning employment with VA or have an approved medical or religious accommodation. HPTs are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and options provided. The Fellowship Directors will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.

b. Primary source verification of all prior education and training is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.

8. Additional On-boarding Forms. Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

9. Proof of Identity per VA. VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: <https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf>.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	\$51,592 Year 1** ; \$54,381 Year 2**	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	n/a	
Program provides access to medical insurance for resident?	Yes	
If access to medical insurance is provided:		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes	
Coverage of domestic partner available?		No. Health benefits are available to legally married partners regardless of partner sex. Unmarried partners of any sex are not eligible for health benefits.
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	4 hours accrued per each 2-week full pay period for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	4 hours accrued per each 2-week full pay period for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year	

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	
<p>Other Benefits (please describe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellows accrue 4 hours of sick leave and 4 hours of annual leave (vacation) for each full two week pay period, for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year. • In addition to the above leave, Fellows receive the 10 annual federal holidays. • Authorized absence (traveling off site for professional activities) may be available for eligible events like academic conferences. • Liability protection for trainees: When providing professional services at a VA healthcare facility, VA sponsored trainees acting within the scope of their educational programs are protected from personal liability under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act 28, U.S.C.2679 (b)-(d). • Fellows are eligible for life insurance. 		

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

**We expect that the stipend will be no less than these amounts during Years 1 and 2.

Specific Fellowship Eligibility requirements:

1. Graduated from an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology.
2. Completion of an APA accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology.

A stipend is provided both for the first year and second year of the program with a stipend increase in the second year. These stipends are reviewed biannually and are adjusted according to rates paid by comparable non-VA postdoctoral fellowship programs. For the 2022-23 training year, we expect that the stipend will be no less than \$51,592 for year one and \$54,381 in year two.

Applications & Fellowship Site Contact Information

Interested applicants who meet the eligibility requirements should send the following materials to Dr. Megan Kelly at Megan.Kelly1@va.gov. A completed packet with all application materials (see below) is due on December 10, 2021.

Required Documents
<p>Cover Letter (2 pages) specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your research interests and how they align with the MIRECC mission

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research mentors you are interested in working with • Previous experiences in clinical work, education, and research • What you would like to accomplish during your fellowship and your long-term career goals.
Curriculum vitae
Work sample, such as a published or unpublished manuscript on which you are first author or other written product in which you were lead author (e.g., case report, manuals).
Graduate school transcripts (unofficial acceptable, official transcripts required if selected)
Three signed letters of recommendation. Include at least one letter from a research mentor and at least one letter from a clinical supervisor. Letters can be sent directly from the recommender or emailed with the completed application packet.

Videoconference / telephone interviews for this fellowship will occur in late December or early-mid-January. An in-person interview is not required. Fellowship start dates are set for September 1 for a two-year period of fellowship training.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Psychology Fellowship Directors, Dr. Megan Kelly at Megan.Kelly1@va.gov and Dr. Irene Harris at Jeanette.Harris2@va.gov.