



Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Occupational Therapy (OT) Fellowship Program

Part of the Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery Oriented Services

The Durham Veterans Affairs Health Care System Mental & Behavioral Health Service in Durham, N.C., announces openings for the 2025-2026 academic year of its Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services (PSR Fellowship) for Veterans with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD). The PSR OT Fellowship at Durham HCS is a post professional fellowship training program and the designated training slot for a VA Advanced Fellow of the occupational therapy discipline within the Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Oriented Services (PSR Fellowship). The PSR OT Fellowship at the Durham HCS site, located in Durham, North Carolina, is an AOTA-Approved Fellowship Site accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). This PSR OT Fellowship program was the first OT Fellowship program to be accredited by AOTA in the VA Healthcare System nationwide in June 2017.

The PSR OT fellowship provides individualized, mentored clinical training. The curriculum is designed to educate OT fellows on the use of comprehensive psychosocial rehabilitation approaches, evidence-based treatment for SMIs and SUDs, and implementing change in mental health care settings. OT fellows will work with Veterans with SMI (e.g., schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression, PTSD) and SUDs (i.e., alcohol, drugs of abuse, tobacco). The purpose of the fellowship is to develop leaders with the vision and knowledge to help health care systems emphasize functional capability, rehabilitation, and recovery.

PSR OT Fellows will have three year-long primary clinical experiences in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, the Mental Health Intensive Case Management program (an Assertive Community Treatment model program), and the Substance Use Disorders Clinic. All OT fellows participate in a mentored education dissemination project (e.g., research, program evaluation) and present a department-wide in-service. OT Fellows have the opportunity to complete one or more VA national training programs in evidence-based interventions, such as the Social Skills Training for Serious Mental Illness. In addition, didactics and clinical experiences are offered throughout the training year on a range of evidence-based practices (e.g., Wellness Recovery Action Planning, Motivational Interviewing). OT Fellows receive significant training in both group and individual service delivery.

Program Goals

1. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will provide the Fellow with education, training, and mentorship following PSR goals, values, and principles.
2. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will support the Fellow in developing a professional role through interprofessional education and collaboration.
3. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will prepare the Fellow to foster community integration, supporting holistic health and wellness, and facilitating recovery for Veterans with behavioral health needs.

4. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will prepare the Fellow to use systems competencies within VA and other mental health and community-based settings.
5. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will provide ongoing mentoring through multiple formats to improve clinical practice, including assessment and planning skills, to create positive outcomes.
6. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will prepare the Fellow to become an agent of change in the occupational therapy profession through opportunities for networking, leadership and advocacy efforts, outreach, quality improvement and scholarly projects.
7. The PSR OT Fellowship Program will prepare the Fellow to pursue specialty certification such as Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) certification as a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP).

Program Eligibility Requirements

PSR OT Fellows must be U.S. citizens and must be graduates of academic programs that are accredited by the nationally recognized accrediting bodies for the profession, e.g., the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Applications are invited from master's or doctoral programs in occupational therapy. For the PSR OT Fellowship at Durham VA HCS, the PSR OT Fellow must be nationally certified and possess a license to practice occupational therapy in the State of North Carolina by the time of appointment (start of fellowship training). The accepted PSR OT Fellow candidate is responsible for costs related to the national board certification exam, in addition to both initial and renewal fees for state licensure.

- Information on NBCOT national OT certification and board exam: National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy <https://www.nbcot.org/>
- Information on OT practitioner licensure in North Carolina: [North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy \(ncbot.org\)](http://ncbot.org)

Fellowship Start and End

The PSR OT Fellowship is full-time for a full year typically starting in the last week of August through last week of August in the following year. Exact dates vary slightly per year based upon the Federal pay period schedule and are confirmed during the offer and on-boarding processes.

Fellowship Stipend and Benefits

- Stipends are competitive and vary by level of training (e.g., post-Master's, postdoctoral).
- For 2025-2026 Training Year: \$50,362 (Note: The exact stipend amount can vary slightly each year and is confirmed when the offer letter for a training position is received.)
- Fellows are eligible for health and life insurance benefits. All fellows earn annual and sick leave and are entitled to all Federal holidays.

Application and Selection Process - Please refer to the Durham VA PSR Fellowship Announcement for full information on PSR Fellowship information sessions and application details.

Applications are accepted until all positions are filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible. Interviews typically take place between February and April. **February 10th, 2025** is the priority deadline for all occupational therapy applicants. The PSR OT Fellow Candidate is typically selected and notified of a formal training offer by the beginning of April.

Applications must be submitted electronically with the subject line text:

"LAST NAME-DISCIPLINE (e.g., OT, SW)-PSR Fellowship Application".

Please attempt to send all documents as attachments in the fewest number of emails as possible. Applications must be sent to Mr. Roger Haith at roger.haith@va.gov.

To apply, please submit the following items:

1. Letter of interest that describes (a) why you are interested in further training and in this program in particular, (b) your prior training or exposure to recovery-oriented services for serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders, and (c) your long-term professional goals. Letters of interest are typically one page.
2. Current Curriculum Vitae or Resume
3. Graduate transcripts (Unofficial transcripts are acceptable at the time of application. If you are offered an interview, official transcripts will be required at a later date.)
4. Three letters of reference from recent supervisors or faculty members familiar with your clinical work. Reference letters can be emailed by the candidate; they do not need to come from the reference directly. If a reference prefers to do so, the reference may submit to Mr. Ronald Brooks directly.
5. Federal Form: Declaration for Federal Employment:
http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of0306.pdf
6. Federal Form: Application for Health Professions Trainees:
<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-2850d-fill.pdf>

For more information about the program, please contact:

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