



VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program with Psychosocial Rehabilitation Focus



The VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is pleased to offer an APA-accredited* Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Psychology with focus in Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR). The starting date for this Fellowship is early September of each calendar year. VAPAHCS, an affiliated training center for many disciplines from several universities, offers multiple excellent opportunities for educating PSR mental health leaders of the future who will have a commitment to the potential recovery of individuals with chronic and severe mental illness, will promote integration of care, expand systemic education, and lead progressive change. PSR strives not only to achieve stability but moves beyond the maintenance model of symptom control to emphasize functioning in the community of one's own choosing. Social rehabilitation assists individuals in transcending limits imposed by mental illness and addressing social barriers such as second-class personhood and stigma, so that the individual can achieve their goals and aspirations. As such, PSR is both a conceptual framework for understanding mental illness and a client-centered system of care. Fellows in the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program who obtain training in the PSR focus area will attain advanced general professional competencies in clinical psychology, as well as gain experience in PSR-specific competency domains in inpatient, outpatient, and/or residential mental health settings for patients with CSMI.

The Program will involve training in these areas of Psychosocial Rehabilitation competence consistent with the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Practice Guidelines (1997):

- Understanding severe and persistent mental illness
- Knowledge of psychosocial rehabilitation
- Integration of PSR principles in practice
- Practitioner's professional and self-development
- Understanding consumer initiatives, community engagement issues and practice, systems issues and strategies for advocacy, and systems change
- Understanding strategies for substance use interventions
- PSR assessment skills
- PSR intervention skills and strategies
- Multicultural clinical competence
- Understanding vocational rehabilitation, residential treatment, and housing intervention strategies

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship will be for a full year, full-time with a salary of **\$56,519** per annum. Vacation, sick leave, professional development leave, and health insurance are available. U.S. citizens who are candidates in or have completed an APA- or CPA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology, or have received a doctorate from a PCSAS- accredited Clinical Science program, and who are enrolled in or have completed an APA- or CPA-accredited internship or a VA-sponsored internship are eligible to apply. All doctoral degree requirements, including dissertation defense, must be completed prior to beginning the fellowship. Preference is given to candidates with prior PSR training but it is not a requirement. All information about VA eligibility requirements is available at www.psychologytraining.va.gov/docs/Trainee-Eligibility.pdf.

In order to apply to our fellowship program, you must submit all the required application elements via the APPA CAS system at <https://appicpostdoc.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login> by the due date. **Applications must be received by December 26, 2023.** Incomplete applications will not be read by the Selection Committee. Applicants should be available for virtual interview in January and February. We will follow APPIC Postdoctoral Selection Guidelines for making fellowship offers. We plan to make **initial fellowship offers by telephone in accordance with APPIC Common Hold Procedures.**

The full postdoctoral brochure and further information about the application process can be obtained at our website at Psychology Training Program | VA Palo Alto Health Care | Veterans Affairs (or scan the QR code below). For additional questions, please contact the Postdoctoral Coordinator, William Faustman, Ph.D., preferably by email at William.Faustman@va.gov or at (650) 493-5000, x64950.

*The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship program at VA Palo Alto is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The next site visit is scheduled for 2031. The APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation can be reached at the APA, 750 First St. NE, Washington DC 20002-4242; phone number 202 336-5979.

