Psychology Doctoral Internship Training Program Brochure

2019-2020
Internship Training Year

Melissa S. Cyrus, Ph.D.
Director of Clinical Training
July 27, 2018

Lebanon Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center
Lebanon, PA
MATCH Number: 238511
Applications Due: November 2, 2018

Psychology Internship Program
(Mail Code – 630)
Attn: Dr. Melissa Cyrus
1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
ACCREDITATION STATUS
The Doctoral Internship Program at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center (LVAMC) in south-central Pennsylvania (PA) is a newly-funded VA Internship site with (3) positions. The Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA) granted the program “accredited, on contingency” status with an initial date of accreditation of August 18, 2017. Once outcome data for 2 cohorts has been completed, program will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficient to grant full accreditation status.

The Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association can be reached at:
The American Psychological Association
750 First St NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5979

INTRODUCTION
The Lebanon VA Medical Center Doctoral Internship Program provides qualified doctoral candidates a generalist training with a variety of psychiatric, medical, and geriatric patients in residential, inpatient, outpatient and primary care settings. Internship graduates are prepared for professional practice in VA facilities as well as a wide range of health care settings, including medical centers and non-VA hospitals that primarily serve adults.
**TRAINING SETTING, MODEL, AND PHILOSOPHY**

The Lebanon VA provides primary and behavioral health care throughout a mainly rural seven-county area of south-central Pennsylvania to a diverse clientele. Patients are also served at six additional community-based VA clinics at varying distances from the main campus in Lebanon. The majority of training takes place at the main hospital and the Residential Recovery Center (RRC) both conveniently located at the main campus in Lebanon. Interns have the option, if they so choose, to have some of their outpatient experience at one of the outlying VA outpatient clinics. Interns are provided an office in the Behavioral Health building with a dedicated computer and phone.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center Doctoral Internship Program provides doctoral education and training for the practice of professional psychology. Training faculty and supervisors provide an intensive training experience to psychology interns within a generalist model and a practitioner-scholar philosophy. The Lebanon VAMC Internship Program will train interns to think critically regarding the integration of scientific knowledge with current practice. We believe this model to be highly effective in preparing interns for the successful practice of professional psychology.

**AIM, TRAINING, COMPETENCIES AND OUTCOMES**

The program's Aim for internship training is to prepare interns for successful independent practice of professional psychology in VA facilities as well as a wide range of health care settings, including medical centers and non-VA hospitals that primarily serve adults.

This aim will be accomplished by the intern completing the program’s training activities, demonstrating competency in the nine profession-wide competencies, and obtaining job placement and licensure after graduation.

Training to develop the profession-wide competencies includes both experiential and didactic learning elements. The experiential opportunities are spent in direct contact with service recipients and include sufficient observation and supervision by psychologist supervisors. All learning follows a logical training sequence that is sequential, cumulative, and graded in complexity.

The following nine competencies are required for all interns who graduate from programs accredited in health service psychology. Opportunities are provided
throughout the training year for all interns to demonstrate they have met each required profession-wide competency. By the end of the training year, all interns must demonstrate competence in:

1. Research
2. Ethical and legal standards
3. Individual and cultural diversity
4. Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
5. Communication and interpersonal skills
6. Assessment
7. Intervention
8. Supervision
9. Consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills

The expectation is that by the end of the training year the intern demonstrates competence in the above nine areas and graduates from the internship program. Interns are also expected to carry 2 EBP cases in their minor rotation. After graduating from the program, expected outcomes include obtaining job placement in the field of psychology and licensure. Thus, the program’s aim of preparing interns for successful independent practice of professional psychology in VA facilities as well as a wide range of health care settings, including medical centers and non-VA hospitals that primarily serve adults, directly aligns with the program’s training activities and intended outcomes.

**PROGRAM CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION**

Interns will rotate through three major full-time rotations of 4-month duration in the core mental health settings of Neuropsychology Testing Lab, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PCMHI), and the Residential Recovery Center (RRC). Interns will also participate in a minor rotation 1 day a week throughout the entire year. Minor rotations include the Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic and Geriatrics and Hospice Rotation in our Community Living Center (CLC) and Inpatient Hospice Units.

In BHIP, interns will be exposed to Evidence Based Psychotherapies (EBP). Interns will rank order their preferences of the EBPs they wish to be trained in, along with group therapy modalities they have interest in. The Geriatrics and Hospice Rotation (including time spent on the Community Living Center (CLC) and Hospice units), allows interns the opportunity to round with interdisciplinary teams,
provide individual and group therapy interventions, assessments, behavioral contracts, modified EBPs, family therapy, and staff education as needed. Interns will have the opportunity to discuss and develop their individual learning goals within each placement. At the beginning of each rotation, the number of hours per week spent in direct contact with service recipients is expected to start out low, increasing to 10-15 hours per week.

In each of the major and minor rotations, interns will have routine, on-site supervision by a licensed clinical psychologist. Additional clinical consultation, as appropriate, will also be available from the disciplines of psychiatry, primary care/emergency physicians, graduate level nursing, social work, vocational rehabilitation specialists and chaplains. The major rotations will comprise approximately 26 hours per week and minor rotations approximately 7 hours per week, leaving 4 hours for supervision and 3 hours didactics. Clinical supervision will be comprised of 2 individual hours provided by the major rotation supervisor, 1 individual hour provided by the minor rotation supervisor and 1 hour group supervision provided by the clinical training director or other psychology supervisors. **Additionally, per SoA Standard II.D.I.a.v, each intern evaluation will be based in part on direct observation. Direct observation includes in-person observation (e.g., in room or one-way mirror observation of client contact during an intake or test feedback session), live synchronous audio-video streaming, or audio or video recording.**

There may also be opportunities for tiered supervision, in which interns provide supervision to practicum students. The staff supervisor always has primary professional responsibility for cases in which supervision is provided to a trainee. There are also regularly scheduled meetings with the interns and a staff psychologist to practice supervision techniques and process their progress as a supervisor/consultant.

The title “doctor” should not be used in writing and/or orally in the absence of an earned doctorate. Doing so is a violation of the “Ethical Principles of Psychologists” and is consistent with APA guidelines. As such, the title of psychology intern is used for all who enter this program.
MAJOR ROTATIONS:

**Neuropsychology Testing Lab**

The Neuropsychology Testing Lab is primarily a consultation and assessment service which provides in-depth psychological and neuropsychological evaluations for the entire catchment area served by the Lebanon VAMC and its CBOCs. The Lab provides more extensive evaluations than can be provided in brief therapy formats. Consultation requests tend to be diverse in nature and require development of extensive neurobehavioral histories and clinical interviews. Veterans from all service eras are referred from various interprofessional providers, programs and clinics throughout the Medical Center.

Interns in the Lab will assess neuropsychological functions that include intelligence, personality, sensory perceptual and motor functions, auditory and visual processing, memory, attention, speed of processing, concept formation and problem solving, academic skills, and planning and organizing abilities. Interns will respond to consult requests including but not limited to evaluation of TBI/sequelae, diagnostic clarification, dementia, progressive neurological disease, substance-induced cognitive disorders, PTSD, ADHD/ADD, abilities related to driving, executive function, medical symptom validity, independent living, financial and medical decision making, bariatric pre-surgical readiness, chronic pain, readiness for cross-sex hormone therapy, personality assessment, and intelligence and learning disability testing. Interns will develop neuropsychological test batteries varying by the level of impairment of the Veteran and the nature of the referral question.

The rotation will include orientation to clinical neuropsychological disorders and brain-behavior relationships with training in psychological and neuropsychological evaluation that will include: conducting initial interviews with emphasis on neurobehavioral history, training on administration of personality and neuropsychological instruments, scoring, interpretation, and report writing under supervision. Additional emphasis is on formulating treatment recommendations for behavioral and intellectual disorders that have a neurological origin. There is opportunity to participate in weekly neuropsychology team meetings. The Neuropsychology Testing Lab team is comprised of licensed psychologists as well as advanced level psychology technicians with licenses and/or certifications.
Behavioral Health Consultation Liaison Team (BHCLT)/Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI)

The Behavioral Health Consultation Liaison Team (BHCLT)/Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) program provides interns with the maximal opportunity to interact with a wide array of allied healthcare professionals who serve on Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT), including physicians, physician assistants, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dieticians, and care managers. The BHCLT provides clinical health psychology services throughout specialty medicine and surgery services, while the PCMHI program provides co-located collaborative care and care management services within the primary care setting.

Interns will have the opportunity to participate in the evaluation/assessment, treatment planning, consultation, and direct care of patients with co-morbid medical and psychological/adjustment issues using empirically-based individual and group interventions. Within the BHCLT there will be exposure to pre-surgical psychological evaluations, consultations on medical/surgical floors, patient rounds with physician and pharmacy colleagues, evidence based psychotherapies (CBT-insomnia and chronic pain), and the interdisciplinary pain management program. Within PCMHI Interns will work collaboratively with PACT members providing services throughout primary care aimed toward the identification and reduction of health risks (e.g., tobacco use, obesity, stress) and behavioral health concerns (e.g., depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders, substance use) in a “stepped care” fashion that fully appreciates and integrates the biopsychosocial model of care. The interprofessional nature of the BHCLT/PCMHI allows for shared decision-making among providers on the team and successful collaboration with PACT members and specialty medicine providers. This ensures provision of high quality assessment and management of Veteran concerns.

Residential Recovery Center (RRC)

The RRC provides state-of-the-art, high-quality residential rehabilitation and treatment services for Veterans with addiction, multiple mental illness, and/or psychosocial deficits. The RRC identifies and addresses goals of rehabilitation, recovery, health maintenance, improved quality of life, and community integration along with specific treatment of addictive disorders, mental illnesses, and homelessness.

Each Veteran works with his/her interprofessional team to create an individualized treatment plan which includes specific goals, measurable objectives, and
targeted dates for completion. This team is made up of psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurses, psychiatry, physician assistant, vocational rehabilitation specialists, chaplain, rehabilitation technicians, recreation therapist, health technicians, and peer support specialists. When helpful, other ancillary disciplines such as Probation Officers or outpatient therapists/case workers are invited to team meetings to support the goals of recovery.

Treatment is recovery and strength-based focused; an essential emphasis is having the Veteran as a full partner in the process of their recovery. In addition to the RRC’s stated recovery goals to address addiction, mental health, and psychosocial issues for those who need a residential level of care, the program also helps Veterans stabilize, find employment, earn money, and gain independent housing. Interns will be providing initial assessments, individual, family, and group therapy, psychoeducation, addictions work, and some case management.

MINOR ROTATIONS:

**Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program**

The Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) was created in response to a growing need to treat patients in a more comprehensive, patient-centered interdisciplinary manner. Patients who are part of a BHIP team receive comprehensive care from psychology, psychiatry, social work, and nursing staff in the Specialty Mental Health Outpatient Clinic. Weekly meetings allow for case reviews, consultation with other staff members, and discussion regarding best treatment options available for each patient based on individual needs and goals. These meetings allow for the treatment planning process to begin in a setting where there is shared decision making among providers and collaboration with other areas of the hospital as needed to provide the best quality of services to our Veterans.

In the BHIP rotation, interns will work as part of an interdisciplinary team in the specialty Mental Health Outpatient Clinic at Lebanon or at one of our CBOC locations. Patients come to a BHIP clinic through consultation requests from PCMHI and a variety of providers throughout the hospital. The BHIP rotation offers a breadth of training opportunities with a wide variety of treatments used and diagnoses treated. This rotation also offers depth of training as interns have
the opportunity to follow the same patient throughout their rotation. Interns will leave this rotation with a robust generalist training experience. The interdisciplinary nature of the BHIP teams provides a rich experience for interns to attend weekly meetings, interact with and consult with team members, and help build interdisciplinary treatment plans for patients. Included in this rotation will be exposure to EBPs. Interns will receive an overview of the various EBPs and will have the opportunity to choose an EBP of their preference to complete over an 8-12 month period. Interns can choose to focus on one or more EBPs. Requirement is for intern to see at least 2 EBP cases.

**Geriatrics and Hospice**

The Lebanon VA has 2 long-term care Community Living Center (CLC) units that are part of our Extended Care service. 1-4A unit consists of 15 beds and 1-5B unit has 20 beds. Additionally, we have an Inpatient Hospice unit with 17 beds for those near end of life. Each unit has an interdisciplinary team consisting of: physician, social worker, nursing staff, psychology, pharmacy, chaplain, and various trainees. Interns will participate in team rounds and IDM treatment team meetings and receive consultations for individual therapy and testing, behavioral plans, and staff education.

### Training Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Month Major Rotation (26 Hours)</th>
<th>4-Month Major Rotation (26 Hours)</th>
<th>4-Month Major Rotation (26 Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-Month Minor Rotation (7 Hours)</td>
<td>4-Month Minor Rotation (7 Hours)</td>
<td>4-Month Minor Rotation (7 Hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supervision (4+ Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Didactics/Seminars (3 Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Instruction in a wide range of clinical and professional issues takes place in the weekly 3-hour sequential Didactics Seminar. Topics typically covered in the seminar include psychopathology, treatment-specific interventions, and areas of professional development. The training year will begin with a series of didactics
specifically targeted to the common needs of interns in this training setting, ensuring that all have the requisite skills and knowledge for a successful start to the internship year. These initial didactics (i.e. Orientation to the Internship and Medical Center, documentation and clinical interviewing, suicide prevention and risk assessment) are intended to provide a common foundation of knowledge and skills for all incoming interns, regardless of their previous level of experience. Other topics include specialized didactic offerings such as professional development, therapeutic intervention/assessment, diversity and multicultural issues, ethics, supervision and consultation. In addition to didactic instructors from the psychology faculty, instructors representing various other professional disciplines such as pharmacy, chaplaincy, psychiatry, social work and nursing may be represented. Staff, graduate level trainees from other professions, and psychology practicum students will also be invited to attend didactic sessions. In addition to the didactic seminars, interns will attend Behavioral Health Grand Rounds and Psychology Discipline meeting every other month. Some didactic seminar topics may be shared with the Social Work and Chaplaincy trainees. Additionally, interns may have the opportunity to attend seminars at the Hershey Medical Center, interacting with interns of that program as well.

**EVALUATION OF INTERNS:**
Interns will undergo individualized planning and periodic reassessment of goals. At the beginning of each rotation, interns will describe their individual learning goals for that placement. Progress during the internship will be assessed via the Core Competencies rating system. The Core Competencies include professional skills, knowledge, and behaviors that must be demonstrated at a satisfactory level in order for an intern to graduate from the internship program. Some Core Competencies are practiced and assessed on all rotations, while some are practiced and assessed only on certain rotations.

Mid-way through each rotation, the intern’s progress toward the training objectives will be evaluated by their supervisor (midterm evaluation). If the intern is having problems, this should be documented during the midterm evaluation. If there are serious deficiencies in the intern’s performance, the Training Director will be notified by the supervisor and guidance can be provided to the supervisor and a remediation plan developed if appropriate. Both midterm and end of
rotation evaluations use the same Core Competencies form. There is room for comments to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the intern. Each evaluation period must be based in part on direct observation of the intern by the supervisor.

At the End of the Rotation, interns will be asked to complete an evaluation of the training experience on that rotation and of their supervisor. The same sequence of evaluations will occur with each rotation. Additionally, the last week of the program interns will complete an anonymous evaluation of the program itself. All of the evaluations will be turned in to the Training Director and will be filed in the intern’s personnel folder, with the exception of the evaluations of the rotation and program, which are filed separately in program files. Evaluations will be shared with the doctoral program training director around mid-point of the program and at the end.
**Mechanisms for addressing impaired or deficient performance and grievance procedures**

The purpose of this section is to describe process in place for responding to and correcting deficient and/or problematic behavior exhibited by interns and the grievance policy procedures afforded interns. Potential domains of problematic intern behavior include 1) Professionalism, skills, competence and personal functioning, and 2) Ethical or legal violations of professional standards or laws, failure to satisfy professional obligations that violates the rights, privileges, or responsibilities of others.

Relatively minor problems identified are encouraged to be addressed informally directly with the other party. If this initial attempt at resolution proves unsuccessful the concerned parties may approach the Director of Training to act as a mediator or to provide help in selecting a mediator agreeable to both intern and supervisor. Such informal efforts to resolve problems may involve the Psychology Manager of CBOCs and Specialty Programs as the final arbiter. This mediation may result in a satisfactory resolution or to recommended changes to the learning environment, rotation, or training experience. Minor problems identified at the end of a rotation will be communicated by the supervisor to the Training Director and incoming supervisor(s) via the Intern Rotation Transition meeting. Any changes in placements must be reviewed and approved by the Training Committee. In the event that this informal process does not result in resolution, a formal performance/behavior complaint, and/or intern grievance as the case may be, may be developed following the procedures outlined below. Should the matter be unresolved and become a formal issue, the intern is encouraged to utilize the assigned preceptor, or in the case of conflict of interest, another senior psychologist mutually agreed upon with the Director of Training, as a consultant on matriculating the formal process.

When supervisor(s) identify that an intern’s skills, professionalism, or personal functioning are inadequate for a doctoral internship, the Training Committee, with input from other relevant supervisory staff initiates the appropriate procedures.

Intern Grievance Procedures: Interns who receive an Acknowledgement Notice or Probation Notice, or who otherwise disagree with any Training Committee
decision regarding their status in the program, are entitled to challenge the Committee’s actions by initiating a grievance procedure. Within 10 working days of receipt of the Training Committee’s notice or other decision, the intern must inform the Director of Training in writing that he/she disagrees with the Committee’s action and provide the Director of Training with information as to why the intern believes the Training Committee’s action is unwarranted. Failure to provide such information will constitute an irrevocable withdrawal of the challenge.

Staff Allegation of Intern Violation of Standards: Any staff member of the Lebanon VA Medical Center may file a written complaint against an intern for the following reasons: Unethical or legal violations of professional standards or laws, failure to satisfy professional obligations and in a manner that violates the rights, privileges, or responsibilities of others.

More information on these policies and procedures are available in the Intern Manual provided during the first week of orientation.
Statement of Nondiscrimination
The Psychology Internship program strongly seeks and values diverse experiences and backgrounds as the building blocks of a rich training environment. As such, the program emphasizes respect for trainees, patients, and staff members representing all forms of diversity, including (but not limited to) age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Interns are entitled to equal treatment in selection decisions and freedom from harassment or unfair treatment. The program seeks to obtain a diverse intern class while selecting the most qualified candidates. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. The VA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and the training program follows institutional guidelines in this regard.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT:
Interns will be exposed to and encouraged to use patient satisfaction questionnaires already in use during their different rotations in order to review the care they are providing. Interns will be expected to incorporate patient outcome measures, such as the BDI-II, BAI, and the PCL, into their treatment planning and work with their patients.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM:

Basic Eligibility
• Applicants must meet all requirements for VA internship eligibility, which includes:
• US Citizenship
• Student in good standing in an APA accredited clinical or counseling psychology doctoral program
• Approved for internship status by their graduate training program coordinator
• Applicants must complete at least 3 years of graduate training prior to internship and have at least 400 intervention and assessment hours documented on the AAPI. (300 of which are intervention hours).
• There are also Federal Government requirements:
• Verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration)

**Selection Criteria:**

Applicants are evaluated based on a number of criteria, including breadth and quality of clinical training experience, academic performance and preparation, scholarship and contributions to the profession (e.g., publications presentations, participation in professional organizations), quality of written expression, progress on dissertation or final project, attributes outlined in recommendation letters, and compatibility of training preparation and interests with the program’s goals and resources.

**Application Materials:**

The Lebanon VA Internship Program has 3 Internship positions and participates in the APPIC match. All applications must be submitted through the online AAPI (which can be found at the APPIC website: www.appic.org). No mail or email application materials will be accepted. It is required that applicants include curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation. All candidates are to be certified by their Director of Training that they are academically ready to start internship. Applicants’ curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation should also be submitted through the online AAPI. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application as early as possible so that ample time will be available for application review. **MATCH Number: 238511**
All applications are due by: November 2, 2018.

This internship site abides by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any Intern applicant. Additionally, our program follows the APPIC policy on nondiscrimination in regard to race/ethnic background, age, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.

Selection Procedures and Interviews
Our internship program utilizes a two-part selection procedure. First, application materials are reviewed for basic eligibility, strength of training and experience, and goodness of fit with our program. Second, the selection committee will subsequently develop a pool of applicants to invite for a formal interview. Interviews are an integral part of our selection process, and an on-site or phone interview is required. Applicants will be notified of interview status by December 14th. Interview days consist of meeting with the Training Director, Training Staff, and Current Interns. Upon the completion of our interviews, applicants will be ranked in terms of their suitability for our program in accordance with APPIC guidelines, and submitted for the match.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Start date for the internship is September 3rd, 2019.

We have 3 Internship Positions for the 2018-2019 year.

Stipends and Benefits

Stipend: $26,166 (for 2018-2019)

Benefits: health insurance, life insurance, 10 federal holidays, 13 paid vacation days and 13 sick leave days.

Interns receive 13 paid vacation days and up to 13 paid sick days per year. It should be noted that this leave accumulates over time (4 hours per 2 week pay period for both vacation and sick leave), so interns should not plan
on taking an extended leave early in the training year. In addition, you may be granted "professional leave", which can be used for dissertation work/research meetings, conference attendance, and in some cases post-doc interviews but **must** be approved in advance by the Training Director. In the case of maternity/paternity leave or serious medical illness, extended time off may be taken. That time is added to the end of the training year in order to ensure the intern receives the required hours of clinical training over the course of the year.

**Policy on Psychology Trainee Self Disclosure:**
Consistent with the Ethical Code of the American Psychological Association, psychology trainees at the Lebanon VA Medical Center are generally not required to self-disclose sensitive topics (e.g. sexual history, history of abuse and neglect, psychological treatment or conditions, and relationships with parents/family members, peers, and spouses or significant others) during application to the program or during the course of training. The only exception is in situations in which a trainee's personal problems or condition could reasonably be judged to put patient care, the trainee, or clinical and educational operations at risk. This policy is designed to balance the importance of trust and personal privacy in the supervisory relationship with the supervisor's responsibility for care of the patient and safety of all staff and trainees. In cases when self-disclosure of personal information is necessary, the required disclosure is limited to circumscribed information related to managing the specific clinical, safety, or patient care concern.

**Privacy Policy:** We will not collect any personal information about you when you visit our website.

**TRAINING PROGRAM RESOURCES**

**Stipend:** The stipend is $26,166 for the 2018-2019 training year (plus benefits), paid bi-weekly. Pay is directly deposited into the intern’s bank account. Information about payroll will be provided during the Human Resources orientation.
**Health Insurance:** Interns are eligible to participate in federal health insurance plans. Information will be provided by Human Resources during orientation. Interns may elect to participate in a plan if interested.

**Liability Coverage:** The Federal Tort Claims Act prescribes a uniform procedure for handling of claims against the United States, for money only, on account of damage to or loss of property, or on account of personal injury or death, caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of a Government employee while acting within the scope of his or her office or employment. Thus, as a federal employee, interns are included as part of the Federal Tort Claims Act and are not required to carry any liability/malpractice insurance for training work at the Lebanon VAMC.

**Office:** Interns will have an office together in which they can store their personal items and materials, complete documentation, and attend didactic seminars. Additionally, interns will have office space on each rotation, which will vary. The office will have workstations with individual computers which will provide access to the computerized patient record system (CPRS), Vista system, Microsoft Office programs, and internet access. Each workstation will also be equipped with individual phones. To set up your own voicemail message you must contact FITS or review instruction in your BH&S Orientation policy binder. Most offices also have a “panic button” to use in the event of a behavioral health emergency.

**Keys:** Office keys will be issued by the Behavioral Health program support staff at the beginning of the year. You will “sign for” all keys and thus it is imperative that you protect them and do not lose them. You will need to return keys upon your completion of the internship, during clearing station, prior to your departure.

**Training Supplies:** There are many training supplies available for your use. Audio recorders may be available from the DCT or your individual supervisors. Office supplies are also available from the Behavioral Health program support staff.

**Clerical/Technical Support:** The Behavioral Health program support staff can assist you with many questions pertaining to telephone and computer problems. Your timekeeper is one of our Behavioral Health program support assistants. The program clerks are available to assist interns with scheduling of patients.

**Parking:** Parking is available without cost at Lebanon VAMC. You must obtain a parking permit from VA Police, and can do so during orientation week.
GRADUATE PROGRAMS OF CURRENT AND FORMER INTERNS:

2018-2019:
Immaculata University
Marywood University
University of Iowa

2017-2018:
Chatham University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

2016-2017:
Hofstra University
Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University

Requests for further information should be directed to:
Melissa S. Cyrus, Ph.D., Psychology Director of Clinical Training
Lebanon VA Medical Center (Mail Code #630)
1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042
E-mail: Melissa.cyrus@va.gov
PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING FACULTY

*Barbara Caffrey, Psy.D.,* Minnesota School of Professional Psychology (2005)
-Staff Psychologist, Domiciliary Chief

Melissa S. Cyrus, Ph.D., University of Alabama (2008)
– Staff Psychologist, Psychology Director of Clinical Training, Psychology Discipline Lead

-Inpatient Psychiatric Unit and Community Living Center (CLC)/Hospice

*Donald Danser, Ph.D.,* Virginia Commonwealth University (1986)
-Staff Psychologist, Manager of CBOC and Specialty Programs

Joel Deloy, Ph.D., University of North Dakota (2006)
-Staff Psychologist Lebanon VAMC Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic (BHIP)

– Staff Psychologist; Primary Care-Mental Health Integration/Behavioral Health Consultation Liaison Team, Lebanon VAMC

*John Grisbacher, Psy.D.,* Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University (1993)-Staff Psychologist, Home-Based Primary Care, Mentoring Coordinator, Supervision Coordinator

Diane P. Hoover, Ph.D., University of Delaware (1982)
– Staff Psychologist, Team Lead Neuropsychology Assessment Lab, Lebanon VAMC
– Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Penn State College of Medicine/Hershey Medical Center

– Staff Psychologist, York Community Based Outpatient Clinic (BHIP), LGBT Coordinator, Diversity Committee Chair

Amy J. Kucirka, Psy.D., Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology, Widener University (1999)
– Staff Neuropsychologist, Lebanon VAMC

-Staff Psychologist, Team Lead of the Traumatic Stress Recovery Program/PTSD Clinical Team (PCT), Didactic Committee Chair

Carrie Smith, Psy.D., Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology (2010)
– Staff Psychologist, – Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHRRTP) RRC

- Staff Psychologist, Lebanon VAMC Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic
Brad M. Todd, Ph.D., California School of Professional Psychology (2000)
– Staff Psychologist, Lebanon VAMC Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic (BHIP)
Kristen Tosi, Ph.D., New School (2014)
-Staff Psychologist, Lebanon VAMC Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic (BHIP)
Steven Williams, Ph.D., University of Florida (1987)
– Staff Psychologist, Team Lead Behavioral Health Consultation Liaison Team & Primary Care-Mental Health Integration Program. York Community Based Outpatient Clinic
– Staff Psychologist; Team Lead of Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Program (BHIP)

*=No rotation, but available for back-up supervision coverage and/or mentoring program, and presenting in didactic seminars.
Lebanon VA Medical Center is located in South Central Pennsylvania, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. The city of Lebanon has a diverse population of over 24,000 residents and is surrounded by quaint small towns and rural agricultural areas. The main hospital is located in South Lebanon Township, approximately 30 miles east of Harrisburg, the state capital, and 30 minutes from the cities of Hershey, Reading, Lancaster, and York. Lebanon is also 1.5 hours from Philadelphia and Baltimore, and 3 hours from Washington, DC and New York City.

The Lebanon Valley is an area rich in culture and home to many famous attractions. The city of Harrisburg, the state capital, is home of the Harrisburg Senators baseball team and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Hershey, “Chocolatetown USA”, is the home of Hershey’s chocolate as well as Hershey Park and Zoo America. Lebanon is also close to Lititz, PA, recently voted the “coolest small town in America”. Lititz is home to the Wilbur candy factory, Sturgis pretzels, Rock Lititz practice concert hall, and many independent restaurants and boutiques.

Lebanon is also close to many state parks and the Appalachian Trail. The Poconos are a short drive away and offer many recreational opportunities including skiing, whitewater rafting, paintball and mountain biking, just to name a few. Lancaster is also known for its outlet and antique shopping.
In terms of culture, the Lebanon area is a mixture of agricultural and manufacturing communities and was heavily influenced by the early settlers from Germany. The Pennsylvania Dutch (also called Pennsylvania Germans or Pennsylvania Deutsch) are descendants of early German immigrants to Pennsylvania. Not all Pennsylvania Germans are Amish. Although they are the best known group, the Amish make up only a small portion of the Pennsylvania Germans in the state. Other groups include the Mennonites, the Brethren, and sub-groups within each group, many of whom use cars and electricity.

The early immigrants arrived in droves, mostly before 1800, to escape religious persecution in Europe. Like so many other persecuted groups, they came here for William Penn’s promise of religious freedom in his new land of Pennsylvania. These colonists embraced a strong work ethic, which led to the development of a number of business producing a wide variety of goods from natural resources.

Pennsylvania became part of the “rustbelt” and was home to the coal, iron, steel, railroads, and petroleum industries beginning in the 19th century. Textile processing, milling, and, in the early 20th century, food processing (e.g., Hershey’s chocolate), were also important to the state’s economy.
As psychologists, we respect how the history and culture of this area affects our Veterans and their families. Working as part of the VA system, we also strive to understand how our local military history and current military installations contribute to our Veteran’s identities.

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1-3, 1963, was the largest battle of the Civil War. Confederate forces reached as far north as Mechanicsburg, threatening to take Harrisburg. York was the largest Northern town to fall to the Confederates during the war. The U.S. Army War College is located on the campus of the Carlisle Barracks, in Carlisle, PA (Cumberland County). Fort Indiantown Gap, located mainly in Lebanon and to a lesser extent in Dauphin County, is a National Guard training center. FTIG serves as the headquarters for the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the PA National Guard. And finally, the Naval Support Activity, located in Mechanicsburg (Cumberland County), is a naval supply depot and employs many Veterans.
Today, the people in this area remain predominately White and of German descent but that is changing. Current demographics reveal the counties of South Central PA are over 90% White, with the exception of Dauphin County, which was 71% White in the 2010 Census. According to the 2000 Census, while anywhere from 29-45% of residents consider themselves to be German, additional notable nationalities include American, Irish, and English. Schuylkill county has a large Polish (almost 10%) population, as well as a considerable Lithuanian (5%) population. Hispanic/Latino individuals comprise 9.5% of the Lancaster County’s population and 16.4% of Berks County’s population.

We at Lebanon VA welcome interns from all areas, cultures and backgrounds to continue to grow a more diverse staff of clinical psychologists! We invite you to explore our area, listen with an open heart and share your story so we can all learn from each other.

Local Attractions:
http://gettysburgmuseum.com/
http://www.hersheypa.com/
http://www.crystalcavepa.com/
http://www.hersheyharrisburgwinecountry.com/
http://www.poconomountains.com/
http://www.parenfaire.com/
https://www.sight-sound.com/WebSite/home.do