APA-Accredited
Doctoral Psychology Internship Program
Pembroke Pines, Florida

2021-2022
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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the doctoral psychology internship program at South Florida State Hospital. The psychology internship aim is to produce ethical clinicians who can integrate science with practice, are culturally competent, and provide quality assessment, and empirically based assessments and interventions to a long-term mentally ill adult inpatient population. Through didactic training and supervised practice, interns will increase their knowledge and proficiency in the application of general psychological principles and will have an opportunity to work with a culturally diverse population.

South Florida State Hospital internship offers two distinct tracks to interns. A Clinical Track is completed by two interns, and it includes two six-month rotations: Psychological Evaluation and Behavior Assessment & Consultation. There is a separate 12-month Clinical Forensic Track for applicants interested in focusing on forensic psychology issues. Independently of the track, all interns will have the opportunity to build skills in the areas of forensics, psychological assessment, and behavior assessment and consultation, as they complete a core curriculum in clinical practice. Throughout training, interns will be included as a contributing member of the hospital’s multidisciplinary team. Responsibility for professional decision-making grows as interns’ clinical skills are demonstrated and refined. However, their primary role remains that of trainee, and supervision and training are a top priority of this program.

Our program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the accreditation status of this program can be obtained from the APA Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation, 750 First Street NE, Washington, DC, 20002-4242, (202) 336-5979, and at its website www.apa.org/ed/accreditation.

We are also a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). We abide by APA and APPIC policies as well as participate in the APPIC Internship Matching Program. Applications and the Applicant Agreement can be obtained from the APPIC Web site at www.appic.org. Our program code is 1211. We have three (3) funded Internship positions. This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

Please note that the sections that follow within this brochure provide information regarding our internship site. However, recognize that is it not feasible to answer all questions that may arise when reviewing this information. As such, we strongly encourage potential applicants to contact us directly, with any questions they may have.

Wellpath Recovery Solutions is an EOE/Minorities/Females/Vet/Disability Employer. Consideration for employment is provided without any discrimination in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Wellpath Recovery Solutions provides reasonable accommodations to all those with a disability as defined under the ADA.
South Florida State Hospital is a privately managed 341-bed state psychiatric hospital. The hospital provides services to adults of all ages from many cultural backgrounds. Most of the persons served (patients) in this facility have been committed for treatment pursuant to Florida’s civil commitment statute, known as the Baker Act. These persons served represent a broad spectrum of psychiatric disorders with the most frequent diagnoses being major thought and affective disorders, severe personality disorders (primarily borderline and antisocial), and substance use. Psychology staff and interns are responsible for assessment, individual and group psychotherapy, behavioral planning, training of and consultation with direct care staff, as well as participation in the interdisciplinary treatment teams.

The hospital has a strong commitment to providing training across a broad array of disciplines, including nursing, medicine, social work, pharmacy, and psychology. Trainees in these areas come from local universities such as University of Miami, Nova Southeastern University, Barry University, and Broward Community College. Interns are provided with opportunities to interact with trainees from other disciplines while serving on treatment teams and attending Grand Rounds.

The recovery treatment model at SFSH is Illness Management & Recovery (IMR), which consists of a designated set of skills and knowledge to help persons served attain management of their illness and recovery. IMR is a step-by-step evidence-based practice program that helps persons served to set meaningful goals for themselves, acquire information and skills to develop more sense of mastery over their psychiatric illness, and make progress towards their own personal recovery. However, what is consistent with the traditional medical model is that the psychiatrist is the head of the treatment team. The psychology department fulfills the roles of consultant, therapist, assessor, and behavioral consultant. We offer support to the treatment teams and the persons served.

The hospital is comprised of seven units, with each unit name representing an area or theme associated with the State of Florida. Four three units (Las Olas, Okeechobee, and Tequesta) are 50+ bed general population male units. Three units (Royal Palm, Sanibel, and Vizcaya) are coed units. The Everglades unit is a specialized unit for males with challenging behaviors.

**Geriatric/Medically Compromised Populations**

The Vizcaya unit houses elderly and some physically vulnerable or medically compromised persons served. Due to the physical limitations of the persons served on the Vizcaya unit, and the difficulty ambulating to treatment/recovery programs, services are usually offered on the unit. This unit also offers opportunities for interns to conduct psychological assessments that help elucidate the possible nature of cognitive deficits and help the treatment team design effective recovery plans. The Vizcaya unit has a 10-bed Medical wing that is used for acute medical conditions. Generally, persons served are here for brief periods of illness, although sometimes they have conditions that prevent them from returning to the general units. Psychology staff and interns conduct individual therapy with few of the persons served and help the staff provide support and comfort to the persons served.
Forensic Population

There are forensic step-down beds allocated for forensic persons served at South Florida State Hospital. Generally, the persons served are from the 13-county service area and have been stepped-down from a secure forensic facility to this civil hospital, because they are regarded as no longer in need of a high security placement. There is no specific forensic unit, and the persons served are dispersed throughout the hospital units based on level of functioning and behavior.

The forensic persons served have been committed by the state criminal courts as Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) or as Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity (NGI). A variety of psychiatric conditions are seen with the most frequent diagnoses being major thought and affective disorders, severe personality disorder (primarily antisocial and borderline), and substance use. Many of the ITP persons served have significant cognitive impairment that prevents them from being restored to competency.

DIVERSITY

Persons Served

Our person served’s population is comprised of 67% males and 33% females with an average age of 47 years old. Over 85% of persons served carry a diagnosis of schizophrenia, 7% have mood disorders, and 67% have substance use disorders.

The persons served population of SFSH is comprised of a significant proportion of individuals from the Caribbean islands (e.g., Haiti, Cuba, and Jamaica) and South America. While the largest proportion of individuals speak English, many are bilingual or monolingual in Spanish or Haitian Creole.

Staff

Consistent with our persons served’s demographics, the employees at SFSH are a reflection of the diverse population in South Florida. The staff is comprised of 66% females and 34% males. There are 71% who are classified as Black, but who come from various ethnic groups, including Jamaica, Haiti, Caribbean islands and countries in Africa; 12% are White, 12% Hispanic, and 5% come from other backgrounds, such as Asia.

Internship Diversity Training

As noted above, the cultural fabric of the South Florida area is comprised of vibrant and diverse groups of individuals, each with a unique and strong sense of cultural identity. The diverse environment is considered one of many strengths of our program, and many of our interns have reported such an experience to add to their cultural competency and to increase marketability when looking for post-doctoral employment.

Interns have the unique opportunity to work with persons served who recently immigrated to the United States. Besides ethnic diversity, there are many individual differences that contribute to the unique make-up of our setting’s diversity, including religious beliefs, abilities, sexual orientation, and age. The clinical supervision is provided to meet the unique needs of the South Florida population and incorporates the ADDRESSING model by Pamela Hays (1996, 2008, 2016) to further develop and/or enhance self-awareness of ethnic and individual differences between and among trainees, supervisors, and persons served. Additionally, interns attend a monthly diversity seminar lead by the psychology department, which provides a forum for interns to learn and discuss cultural and intersectionality factors, as well as their impact on treatment and assessment. In previous years, local
experts on immigration and acculturation come as guest speakers. Finally, the psychology department participates at least once a year in the hospital’s grand round presentation where a diversity topic is presented to promote the awareness and understanding of either ethnic or individual differences throughout various professionals.

THE AREA

South Florida State Hospital is located in Pembroke Pines, Florida. The hospital is short drive from internationally renowned Miami/South Beach and Fort Lauderdale beaches. The climate in South Florida is tropical, with average winter temperatures ranging from 65 to 70 degrees.

The culturally rich and diverse population of South Florida is one of the unique and exciting aspects of the area and this is reflected in its variety of local dining and entertainment experiences. The area also offers popular shopping destinations, such as Sawgrass Mills Outlet Mall (the largest outlet mall in the country) and upscale shopping and entertainment destinations such as Las Olas, Hard Rock Casino and Entertainment Complex, and Coconut Grove.

South Florida is also home to several professional sports teams, including the Miami Heat, Miami Dolphins, Florida Panthers, and Miami Marlins. Popular vacation destinations, such as the Florida Keys, Disney, and Universal Studios, are all a three-hour drive away. South Florida is also home to the world’s busiest cruise ports. Additionally, Pembroke Pines is within driving distance from three international airports.

Interns have commented on the high quality of life while on internship in South Florida. Safe and relatively reasonably priced housing for a metropolitan area is within a 5-15 minute radius from the hospital. The State of Florida is also one of only few states in the country to not have an individual state income tax.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Psychology trainee and supervisor offices are located within one central location. Each intern is assigned his or her own individual office with computers so that they may access the hospital’s convenient information system and electronic medical record system (EMR). The department can be best described as a friendly and cohesive group that values professionalism. The department gathers for holiday events and team building (Murder Mystery/Themed Costume Party, Painting with a Twist) activities outside of work at various points throughout the year.

Psychology Staff

The Psychology Department is comprised of seven (7) full-time licensed psychologists, one part-time neuropsychologist, one full-time postdoctoral resident, and multiple practicum students. The Psychology Department primarily provides consultation, assessment, and treatment services within the hospital.
Sheila Santiago Schmitt, Psy.D.  
Director of Psychology and Forensic Services/ Director of Internship Training  
Dr. Schmitt earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. She completed her internship at Citrus Health Network in Miami, Florida. She has worked in community mental health centers, residential centers and private practice. Dr. Schmitt is a reviewer for R3 Continuum, where she conducts peer reviews for short-term and long-term disability cases. She is a member of the Keiser Psychology Advisory Board Committee, the APPIC mentorship program, and is an APA site visitor. Her primary interests include multicultural/diversity issues, violence risk assessments, forensic services, mental health disabilities, and clinical supervision.

Monique Mendez-Timmons, Psy.D.  
Staff Psychologist – Interns’ Supervisor - Internship Forensic Track Supervisor  
Dr. Mendez-Timmons earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship in forensic psychology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey where she worked at a medium security prison for adolescents and with juvenile sex offenders in the community. She has worked in community mental health settings, program evaluation, correctional settings, and private practice with both adults and children. Her primary areas of research and interest consist of sexual offenders, victims and perpetrators of abuse and trauma, mentally ill criminal offenders, and cultural competency in forensic assessments.

Mirelis Peraza, Psy.D.  
Staff Psychologist – Interns’ Supervisor – Internship Behavior Assessment & Consultation Rotation Supervisor  
Dr. Peraza earned her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, from Albizu University, in Miami Florida. She completed her doctoral internship and postdoctoral residency at South Florida State Hospital. Dr. Peraza has over 12 years of experience providing therapeutic services to a diverse population. She has been in private practice since 2013, focusing primarily on adults with a history of affective disorders, traumatic experiences and women’s issues. Her main areas of research and interest include trauma, behavior modification, immigration, acculturation and other diversity issues.

Kelly D’Ottavio, Psy.D.  
Staff Psychologist – Interns’ Supervisor – Internship Psychological Evaluation Rotation Supervisor  
Dr. D’Ottavio earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship at the Haymount Institute for Psychological Assessment in Fayetteville, North Carolina, conducting comprehensive psychological and psychoeducational evaluations with children to older adults. Dr. D’Ottavio completed her post-doctoral residency at South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center conducting competency evaluations and violence risk assessments. The majority of her clinical work has been within forensic settings, including corrections, forensic hospitals, and court-appointed evaluations. Her primary areas of research and interest consist of psychological expert testimony, violence risk assessment, psychological assessment, and mentally ill criminal offenders.

Taylor Phillips, Psy.D.  
Staff Psychologist – Practicum Students’ Supervisor  
Dr. Phillips earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship at Arkansas State Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, providing inpatient treatment and conducting comprehensive psychological and forensic evaluations with adolescents and adults. Further, Dr. Phillips completed her postdoctoral residency at a private practice in Palm Beach, mainly conducting comprehensive parental fitness evaluations for parents involved in the dependency court system. The majority of her clinical work has been with severe and persistent mental illness within multiple settings, including inpatient, outpatient, and forensic settings. Her primary areas of research and interest consist of trauma, violence risk assessments, and mentally ill criminal offenders.
George Kallas, Psy.D.
Staff Psychologist – Practicum Students’ Supervisor
Dr. Kallas became a Licensed Psychologist in September of 2008, and prior to that had been a Licensed Mental Health Counselor since March of 1999. Dr. Kallas opened his private practice, The Orion Center for Psychotherapy, Inc., in 1999. He became certified as a sex therapist in August of 2003 by AACS and fulfilled the State of Florida requirements for the practice of sex therapy at that time. Dr. Kallas graduated from Albizu University with a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology. He also attended a doctoral program simultaneously at Maimonides University where he earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Sexology and became a certified sex therapist. He is a certified clinical trauma professional. Dr. Kallas’ primary areas of research and interest consist of trauma treatment, sexuality and cultural/religious beliefs.

Darisabel Roman-Laureano, Psy.D.
Staff Psychologist – Practicum Students’ Supervisor
Dr. Roman-Laureano is a Licensed Psychologist since November of 2017; she is licensed in the states of Florida and Texas. Dr. Roman-Laureano started her clinical work after completing a Master of Health Science in Substance Abuse at Central University of the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, in 2003. She later earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Forensic Psychology, from Carlos Albizu University. She completed her internship at El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium, University of Texas, providing emergency room consults, comprehensive psychological evaluations, and evidence-based psychotherapy to children, adults, and military veterans from a variety of cultural backgrounds. She was also involved in research using Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for women surviving cancer. Further, Dr. Roman-Laureano completed her postdoctoral residency at Texas Tech University, Texas, conducting research, psychological evaluations, and evidence-based treatment, with a population diagnosed with chronic mental illness. Her preferred psychological interventions include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Social Skills Training, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Mindfulness. She currently functions as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology, at Barry University, Florida. Her primary areas of research and interest consist of evidence-based treatment, severe mental illness, and multicultural diversity.

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The programs offered at South Florida State Hospital are based on the Illness Management & Recovery (IMR). The main goal is to help persons served to set meaningful goals for themselves, acquire information and skills to develop more sense of mastery over their psychiatric illness, and make progress towards their own personal recovery. The majority of these programs are located at the Town Center in the center of the hospital campus. Program staff consists of bachelor and master level practitioners from counseling and social work backgrounds.

Programs

All persons served are encouraged to attend programs, and every effort is made to find a good match between what is available and the needs of the person served. Each person served is assessed upon admission to establish which stage of change they are considered to be at and placed in a group tailored for that particular stage. The different stages include: Precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance. The majority of persons served fall within precontemplation and contemplation stages during their hospitalization. Supplementary programs include the Co-occurring Disorders Program (CODEP), and Enrichment Activities, such as music, art therapy, as well as other activities that may facilitate person’s served transition back to the community, such as
adult education, computer training, cooking skills, and horticulture. There is also a therapeutic job program for those person served interested to work within the hospital setting. The precontemplation groups’ goal is to get the persons served to consider they have a problem; contemplation groups’ goal is to raise awareness of the problem by observation of the behavior; preparation groups’ is to encourage these steps and support change process; and commit to make change a top priority; action groups’ goal is to make action plan suggestions, reinforce changes, and provide support and guidance; maintenance groups’ goals are to support continued change and help with relapse prevention.

The Engagement Groups and Enrichment Program are designed to engage persons served who may not have sufficient social skills to interact effectively with others. It is meant to provide services for persons served who are not ready to participate in other programs. It offers recreational activities that require less intellectual functioning than would a more educational setting. Persons served can play sports, engage in music therapy or art therapy, or just relax while in the presence of their peers. The Co-occurring Disorders Program is a substance abuse recovery program. While this is not a drug rehabilitation hospital, the need to help persons served recover from addiction is a high priority. All persons served are screened for any history of substance abuse and referrals are made to this program when deemed necessary. Persons served are educated on the problems of substance use, including nicotine. They are provided with peer support through the facilitation of AA and Double Trouble meetings.

**Special Events**

In addition to programmatic groups, several events for persons served are hosted by program staff throughout the year. Events include field days, talent shows, holiday parties, fashion shows, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAM) and Out of the Darkness walks, and art shows. For the art shows, persons served are able to sell their own art work as a means of earning money. Many of our interns have remarked on how these activities greatly increase the quality of life for the persons served, and interns are encouraged to attend these events in support of persons served.

**PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP TRAINING**

Internship training takes place within the Scholar-Practitioner model with a goal of producing ethical clinicians who can integrate science with practice, are culturally competent, and provide quality assessment, diagnosis and empirically-based interventions to a long-term mentally ill adult inpatient population. Although our internship program offers a forensic track, all interns complete a core curriculum in clinical practice.

Through didactic training and supervised practice, the intern will increase his/her knowledge and proficiency in the application of core psychological principles and will have an opportunity to work with a culturally diverse population. Regardless of the intern’s track, s/he will have the opportunity to build skills in the areas of forensics, psychological assessment, and behavior assessment and consultation. There is a separate track and match number for applicants interested in obtaining specialized training and skills in the areas of forensic assessment and intervention. Therefore, applicants who are interested in the Clinical Forensic Track should explicitly indicate this interest in their cover letter and the application materials. If an applicant wishes to apply to both the Clinical and Forensic Track, that intention should also be made clear in the cover letter and application materials.

Throughout training, the intern will be included as a contributing member of the hospital’s multidisciplinary team. Responsibility for professional decision-making grows as the intern’s clinical skills are demonstrated and refined. However, his/her primary role remains that of a trainee, and supervision and training is a top priority of this program.
**Internship Program Aims**

- To prepare interns to demonstrate professional competence with the long-term mentally ill population.
- To prepare interns to demonstrate professional competence in the provision of supervision to other professionals.
- To prepare interns to demonstrate professional competence of integration of science and practice in intervention and assessment.

**Profession-Wide Competencies (PWCs)**

This internship program emphasizes promotion of profession-wide competencies as articulated by the Standards of Accreditation. The clinical and non-clinical training experiences are designed to promote attainment of profession-wide competencies within the context of our specific program aims. Interns in both tracks will require focused experiences beyond the core requirements. It is our goal to ensure that interns achieve these profession-wide competencies and become more independent in their delivery of services by the end of their internship year:
- Research;
- Ethical and Legal Standards;
- Individual and Cultural Diversity;
- Professional Values and Attitudes;
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills;
- Assessment;
- Intervention;
- Supervision; and
- Consultation and Interprofessional/interdisciplinary Skills.

**General Duties**

Throughout the duration of the training year, interns provide a wide breadth of clinical activities, including individual and group psychotherapy, initial and annual psychological assessments, and consultations. Interns will be able to spend time attending and participating in treatment team meetings on the various hospital units. This allows them to be an active participant in the multidisciplinary treatment process and to build on their clinical knowledge, as well as professional identity. In addition, all interns are expected to attend the monthly psychology department meeting, where on a quarterly basis, each intern will present a research article relevant to the internship setting and/or population. All interns will participate in the general and specialized seminars: Diversity, Assessment, and Forensic.

**Orientation**

Interns are expected to attend the hospital orientation and the psychology orientation at the beginning of Internship. The hospital orientation takes place over six days and covers information necessary for safety and adequate work performance during the internship year. Interns will also participate in a Psychology Department orientation presented by the Psychology Faculty. This orientation will provide an introduction to the program and an overview of some of the specific knowledge and skills, which will provide a strong foundation for growth and development during the year.

Interns will then be assigned to a Coordinating Supervisor, with whom they will meet for one hour each week throughout the internship year. This supervisor will be their primary supervisor and will be responsible to provide evaluations to the intern and the director of training, who will inform the intern’s doctoral program.

After the orientations, interns will be assigned an initial psychological assessment case, while receiving close supervision from their Coordinating Supervisor. This will allow supervisors to gain a clear view of the intern’s assessment strengths and areas of growth, and will help them and the supervisor to collaboratively construct a set of goals tailored to their needs.
It is expected that during the first few weeks interns will have many questions and/or concerns. Training Supervisors and the Director of Training are always available outside formal supervision and training to answer any questions or concerns. Learning during the internship will occur in a developmental fashion. As the year progresses, the interns’ assignments will be increasingly complex and they will function with greater independence.

**Training Program: Clinical and Clinical-Forensic Tracks**

The internship program at South Florida State Hospital offers two different tracks that are integrated with the core curriculum. One matched intern would have an opportunity to receive focused training in the area of forensic psychology and the other two interns would have an opportunity to receive focused training in the area of clinical psychology. Below is a table summarizing the various responsibilities and requirements for each track.

### Clinical Forensic Track (12 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychotherapy</th>
<th>The intern will maintain a caseload of two (2) individual therapy cases.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Therapy</td>
<td>Three weekly forensic groups: Incompetent to Proceed, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGI), and sex offenders/individuals with poor boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Evaluations</td>
<td>Intern will complete at least 20 forensic evaluations, which will include competency, violence risk assessments, and psychosexual evaluations. At least two assessments will be through use of an interpreter, Intern will also complete at least two (2) non-forensic psychological evaluations with the Psychological Evaluation Rotation supervisor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>Intern will perform forensic-specific consultations and at least two (2) consultations with behavioral recommendations for the Challenging Behaviors Unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Duties</td>
<td>Complete initial and annual psychological assessments. Present in case conferences, present research in monthly department meeting, attend one treatment team meeting per month, and attend all didactic seminars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>Interns will participate in at least two (2) hours of individual face-to-face supervision with a Licensed Psychologist each week.</td>
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<td>One (1) supervision hour will address clinical issues and the other hour will be dedicated to forensic-track related issues.</td>
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<td>Interns will also participate in at least two (2) hours of weekly group supervision, including, but not limited to case conference, supervision of supervision (SOS) and other group supervision, as needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision of Students</td>
<td>Intern will have the opportunity to supervise practicum students and/or undergraduate students</td>
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## Clinical Track

### Psychological Evaluation Rotation (6 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychotherapy</th>
<th>Each intern will maintain a caseload of 3-5 individual therapy cases, including Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Coaching sessions.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Therapy</td>
<td>Two (2) weekly therapy groups: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Psychosis and Cognitive Therapy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Evaluations</td>
<td>Intern will complete a minimum of 12 assessments, including eight (8) comprehensive psychological batteries (e.g., intellectual, adaptive, personality functioning, neurocognitive and trauma screeners) and four (4) violence risk assessments utilizing the HCR-20V3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>Intern will perform consultations for testing referrals, complete substance abuse screeners for new admissions, and will make referral for services when appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Duties</td>
<td>Complete initial and annual psychological assessments. Present in case conferences, present research in monthly department meeting, attend one treatment team meeting per month, and attend all didactic seminars.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Supervision | Interns will participate in at least two (2) hours of individual face-to-face supervision with a Licensed Psychologist each week.  
- One hour will be with the intern’s Coordinating Supervisor, who will meet with the intern throughout the internship year to provide consistency and to allow for a perspective on their development over the year.  
- One hour of individual supervision each week will be dedicated to specific duties of the Psychological Evaluation Rotation.  
Interns will also participate in at least two (2) hours of weekly group supervision, including, but not limited to, DBT group supervision, case conference, supervision of supervision (SOS) and other group supervision, as needed. |
| Supervision of Students | Intern will have the opportunity to supervise practicum students and/or undergraduate students. |
## Behavior Assessment and Consultation Rotation (6 Months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychotherapy</th>
<th>Each intern will maintain a caseload of 3-5 individual therapy cases, including DBT Coaching sessions.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Therapy</td>
<td>Two (2) weekly therapy groups: Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Seeking Safety (trauma).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional Analysis of Behavior (FAB)</td>
<td>Intern will complete at least five (5) Functional Analysis of Behavior (FAB) and will learn to develop, implement, and track the effectiveness of individualized behavior plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations and Trainings</td>
<td>Intern will complete a minimum of five (5) Challenging Behaviors Unit (CBU) consultations, determining appropriateness for behavioral intervention based on assessment of risk. Intern will complete consultations for individualized behavior plans, making referral for services when appropriate. Intern will provide behavior modification training to new employees and CBU staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging Behaviors Unit</td>
<td>Intern will supervise token economy program, monitor its effectiveness and make revisions as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Duties</td>
<td>Complete initial and annual psychological assessments. Present in case conferences, present research in monthly department meeting, attend one treatment team meeting per month, and attend all didactic seminars.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Supervision                                       | Interns will participate in at least two (2) hours of individual face-to-face supervision with a Licensed Psychologist each week.  
- One hour will be with the intern’s Coordinating Supervisor, who will meet with the intern throughout the internship year to provide consistency and to allow for a perspective on their development over the year.  
- One hour of individual supervision each week will be dedicated to specific duties of the Behavior Assessment and Consultation Rotation.  
Interns will also participate in at least two hours of weekly group supervision, including, but not limited to, DBT group supervision, case conference, supervision of supervision (SOS) and other group supervision, as needed. |
| Supervision of Students                           | Intern will have the opportunity to supervise practicum students and/or undergraduate students.      |
Additional Experiences

Interns also take part in field trips to South Florida State Hospital’s operating company’s (Wellpath Recovery Solutions) various facilities, such as South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center, which is a secure forensic facility and Florida Civil Commitment Center, which houses Sexually Violent Predators. On these field trips, interns learn about relevant topics to these facilities as well as employment opportunities within these facilities. Interns are also encouraged to visit the Miami/Dade or Broward county courthouses to observe supervisors present expert testimony. South Florida State Hospital’s operating company (Wellpath Recovery Solutions) also has a strong commitment to retaining its trainees and career opportunities to remain within the company may be available at the various Wellpath Recovery Solutions operated facilities across the country.

Supervision

Interns will participate in at least two hours of individual face-to-face supervision with a Licensed Psychologist each week. One hour will be with the intern’s Coordinating Supervisor, who will meet with the intern throughout the internship year to provide consistency and to allow for a perspective on their development over the year. For interns in the clinical track, another hour of individual supervision each week is provided by the rotation supervisor and will emphasize the activities on the intern’s assigned rotation. In addition, interns will also receive at least two hours of weekly group supervision. The DBT group supervision provides an opportunity for trainees to process issues during the group, provide insights about safety concerns, countertransference issues, and to provide an overview of the skills discussed to the students assigned to provide the coaching during the week. During the case conference, the interns are both presenters and participants, where conceptualization about a current case, recommendations for treatment and evidenced-based practices are discussed. The supervision of supervision (SOS) group includes the interns and post-doctoral resident. During the SOS group supervision, weeks alternate between discussions on relevant research and issues concerning the practice of clinical supervision, and review of audiotapes from supervision sessions. Feedback is provided to trainees and issues are discussed.

Seminars and Training Activities

Each week interns will participate in a two-hour seminar were different topics relevant to the practice of health service psychology in a psychiatric facility will be presented. The Assessment Seminar provides interns an opportunity to discuss, review, and practice assessment tools utilized in our setting. The Diversity Seminar provides a forum for interns to discuss both individual and cultural issues and their impact in treatment and assessment. The Forensic Seminar provides an opportunity to learn and discuss various forensic case law and special issues relevant to the field of forensic psychology. This seminar will incorporate discussion of relevant pinnacle cases in forensic assessment and practice with our person served (Dusky, Frye, Daubert, Rubio, Mosher, etc.), as well as incorporate a training series related to evaluating violence risk, special issues related to assessment and treatment of sexual offenders, expert witness testimony, and conducting culturally competent forensic assessments. Finally, the General Psychology Seminar will cover a variety of subjects directly related to the field of Psychology. Some of the topics that will be taught include: psychopharmacology; treatment strategies for long-term mentally ill persons served; and treatment of trauma. Important parts of these seminars are the examination and application of recent and relevant research articles to the practice of psychology and diversity and individual differences. Interns will present a research article once per rotation during the psychology department meeting. Interns will also present during the Psychology Seminar Series. The intern completing the clinical forensic track will also participate in two mock trials during the internship year.
EVALUATION PROCESS

The psychology internship program assesses the interns’ performance and conduct on an ongoing basis. This formative feedback from supervisors facilitates their professional growth by acknowledging strengths and identifying performance or conduct that needs improvement.

A summative assessment will be completed at mid-point and at the end of the internship year. The Coordinating Supervisor, Training Director and, if applicable, Rotation Supervisor will meet with interns to discuss their performance. In this feedback session, differences between their views and their supervisor’s appraisals may surface and in most cases are resolved through discussion. The intern and the supervisors sign the written evaluation to acknowledge that the evaluation has been discussed and then forward it to the doctoral program’s Training Director. Based on the evaluations, interns and their Coordinating Supervisor may modify their training plan to better meet their training needs and the training program’s requirements. If interns disagree with the evaluation, they need to put their objection in writing. Their response will be attached to the evaluation in their file and will be presented to the Internship Training Director and their doctoral program. Interns will also be asked to evaluate the program and their supervisors at the time of their evaluation.

The Internship Training Director is responsible for communicating with the interns’ doctoral program about their activities and progress. Early in the year, the doctoral program receives information about their training activities. At the end of the internship year, the doctoral program receives copies of supervisors’ evaluations of interns’ skills and professionalism. At any time, if problems arise, the interns’ doctoral program will be notified.

Due Process in Evaluation and Remediation

The internship program follows due process guidelines to ensure that decisions are not arbitrary or discriminatory. The program uses the same procedures to evaluate all interns and the due process guidelines include the following:

1. Interns will receive written information regarding program expectations for professional functioning at the beginning of internship.
2. Evaluation procedures are clearly stipulated, including when and how evaluations will be conducted.
3. The procedures and actions for making decisions about problematic performance or conduct are outlined in written statements given to interns.
4. Performance Improvement /Remediation plans are outlined for identified inadequacies, and the plans include time frames for remediation and specify consequences for failure to rectify the inadequacies.
5. Interns will receive a written description of procedures they may use to appeal the program’s actions.
6. Decisions or recommendations regarding interns’ performance or conduct are based on input from multiple professional sources.
7. Program actions and their rationale are documented in writing to all relevant parties.

Consistent with SFSH policy, the internship program uses a progressive discipline procedure in instances where an intern engages in problem behavior.

1. If interns display behaviors that concern their supervisor, but do not meet the criterion for verbal counseling (see below), the supervisor will discuss the issue with the intern in supervision. If the problem improves, no further action will be taken. If the problem is not resolved, verbal counseling will be instituted. The Director of Training will be informed of the situation and may notify the concerns to the intern’s doctoral program.

2. In cases where unintentional carelessness and/or minor instances of misconduct or performance are identified, the Coordinating and/or Rotation Supervisor and the Director of Training will meet with the intern to discuss the proper action to correct the problem and/or ensure that it will not reoccur. Interns will be given an opportunity to
provide an explanation to the concerns. The supervisor will document the verbal counseling, along with their response, and will provide a copy to the intern. Their doctoral program will be informed.

3. If the problem behavior occurs again or if an initial problem behavior is considered by the supervisor to be of a more serious nature, a written warning will be initiated. The Coordinating and/or Rotation Supervisor and the Director of Training will meet with the intern and discuss the issues pertaining to the warning. The intern will be given an opportunity to be heard and provide explanations to the concerns, which should be done verbally and in a written format within 24 hours. The supervisors will meet after this meeting to review all documentation. If supervisors agree that a written warning is necessary, a Disciplinary Action Recommendation will be prepared and entered into his/her file. A copy of the written warning will be provided to the facility’s Clinical Director and the Human Resources Director. When a written warning is issued, the intern will be given the opportunity to respond or appeal the decision in writing. All written warnings will have a specified time frame for improvement. The intern’s doctoral program will receive a copy of the Disciplinary Action Recommendation.

**Termination from the internship program**

Failure to achieve improvement within the specified time frame or continued problem behavior could result in termination from the internship program. Serious misconduct and/or repeated violations can also result in termination from the internship program. If the misbehavior was unusually egregious, the Director of Training will immediately involve the doctoral program and the Human Resources Department to discuss termination.

When, as a result of disciplinary proceeding, a termination has been recommended by the supervisor and Director of Training, the intern has the right to an administrative review of the disciplinary process by the Hospital Administrator, or her/his designee. A ruling on the review is the final step in the process.

**Intern Grievance Procedure**

If interns have a grievance of any kind, including a conflict with a peer or other hospital staff, they can take their concerns to their Coordinating Supervisor. He or she will try to resolve the problem. If this intervention fails, or if the conflict is with the Coordinating Supervisor, the next step would be to approach the Director of Training. If the problem is still not resolved to the interns and/or the Director of Training’s satisfaction, the Human Resources department will be contacted in order to take any necessary steps to bring about resolution. At any point, the Director of Clinical Training at their doctoral program may be consulted.

**Stipend, Hours and Time Off**

Interns begin their workday at 8:00 AM, conclude at 4:30 PM, and are entitled to 30 minutes of lunch in the middle of the day. Interns are expected to complete their work within a 40 hour work-week, and working over 40 hours per week is highly discouraged. In the rare event that an intern works over 40 hours per week (e.g., working lunches; field trips), they will be compensated by being paid overtime.

Interns are considered temporary employees at SFSH, have a stipend of $24,960 per year and are paid biweekly. Interns are eligible for employee benefits, including medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, flexible spending accounts, direct deposit, 401k plan, and Aflac voluntary products. Additional benefits are provided to interns such as free lunch at the employee cafeteria. It is expected that all interns will complete 2,000 hours onsite. Interns will receive all holidays observed by the hospital, and 10 days of personal time off (PTO). All interns are given five (5) days of professional leave (i.e., conferences), two (2) of which can be allotted for dissertation defense, if applicable.
Lectures are conducted by supervising psychologists, during our seminar series, as well as during group supervision. Presentations during our seminar series are provided by regional psychologists, professionals, and experts in various areas, as well as our faculty. Below is a list of some of the seminars/didactics offered; however, it is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Topics</th>
<th>Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Suicidal Clients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Intellectual Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Adaptive Functioning Measures</td>
<td>Motivational Interviewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Forensic Examiner Training</td>
<td>Violence Risk Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Personality Assessment Inventory/MCMI-III</td>
<td>Psychotropics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to MMPI-2-RF</td>
<td>Self-injury Across Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Group Therapy</td>
<td>Clinical Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Malingering</td>
<td>Developmental Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Therapeutic Assessment</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Deviance and the DSM-5</td>
<td>Professional Development (EPPP &amp; Private practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of Sex Offenders</td>
<td>Antisocial Personality Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative Treatments for Trauma</td>
<td>Expert Witness Testimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Cultural Differences in Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Changing Drug Trends: Acute and Long Term Effects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychotherapy Termination</td>
<td>Diversity Issues with GLBTQ population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immigration, Acculturation, and its Consequences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment and Treatment of Individual Differences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is an approximation of a typical weekly schedule for interns*

**Monday**
- Individual Therapy (3-5 hours)
- Note writing, consult
- 3:15p.m.–4:00 p.m. – DBT Supervision

**Tuesday**
- 8-9 a.m. – Individual Supervision
- 10-11a.m. -Treatment team meetings, behavior plans
- 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - ½ day assessment

**Wednesday**
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – case conference
- 9:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. - Diversity/Assessment Sup
- 10:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m. – Supervision of Supervision
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.– Training Director/Interns meeting
- PM: 1/2 day rotation

**Thursday**
- Half day rotation, annual/initial psychological assessment
- 1/2 day rotation/clinical

**Friday**
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1 hr. individual supervision
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Lunch & Learn Seminar
- PM – Half day- rotation/ writing

*The schedule for the forensic track intern will vary slightly to reflect an increase in time spent on forensic assessments and group therapy.

Every weekday after lunch a Cuban coffee-break is encouraged ☕
Given the breadth of training offered at our site, interns have successfully obtained postdoctoral opportunities in a variety of settings.

### Class of 2006-2007
- **Intern 1**: Bradley Hospital, Rhode Island
- **Intern 2**: National Institute of Health (NIH), Washington, DC
- **Intern 3**: Behavioral Medicine Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cambridge Health Alliance – Harvard Medical School

### Class of 2007-2008
- **Intern 1**: Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources, Mississippi (CMHC)
- **Intern 2**: Nova Southeastern University, Postdoctoral Psychology Resident, Florida
- **Intern 3**: Department of Corrections, Florida

### Class of 2008-2009
- **Intern 1**: Independent Practice, Community Mental Health Center, Indiana
- **Intern 2**: Citrus Health Network, Florida
- **Intern 3**: Independent Practice Setting, Florida

### Class of 2009-2010
- **Intern 1**: Mount Holyoke College Counseling Service, South Hadley, MA
- **Intern 2**: Emory University School of Medicine, Georgia
- **Intern 3**: Arizona Psychology Consultants, Arizona

### Class of 2010-2011
- **Intern 1**: South Florida State Hospital, Florida
- **Intern 2**: Independent Practice Setting, Florida
- **Intern 3**: Emory University School of Medicine, Georgia

### Class of 2011-2012
- **Intern 1**: Chrysalis Community Mental Health Center, Florida
- **Intern 2**: Jacqueline Valdes, Ph.D., Inc., Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Fellow, Private Practice, Florida
- **Intern 3**: South Florida State Hospital, Florida

### Class of 2012-2013
- **Intern 1**: Independent Practice Setting, Florida
- **Intern 2**: Gateways Forensic Community Treatment Program, California
- **Intern 3**: Independent Practice Setting, Georgia

### Class of 2013-2014
- **Intern 1**: Correct Care, LLC/South Florida State Hospital, Florida
- **Intern 2**: Tulane University School of Medicine/ Postdoctoral fellow, Louisiana
- **Intern 3**: University of California, Los Angeles, California

### Class of 2014-2015
- **Intern 1**: Correct Care, LLC/South Florida State Hospital, Florida
- **Intern 2**: Forensic Independent Practice, Florida
- **Intern 3**: The Center for Behavioral Medicine, Kansas City, MO
Class of 2015-2016
Intern 1  Augusta University East Central Regional Hospital, GA
Intern 2  Forensic Independent Practice, Florida
Intern 3  Mississippi State University, Mississippi

Class of 2016-2017
Intern 1  South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center, Florida
Intern 2  Lifeskills South Florida Rehabilitation Center, Florida
Intern 3  Independent Practice Setting, Massachusetts

Class of 2017-2018
Intern 1  Augusta University East Central Regional Hospital, GA
Intern 2  Stony Brook University Medical Center, NY

Class of 2018-2019
Intern 1  South Florida State Hospital
Intern 2  Florida Civil Commitment Center
Intern 3  Oregon State Hospital

Class of 2019-2020
Intern 1  South Florida State Hospital
Intern 2  Bridgewater State Hospital, MA
Intern 3  Independent Practice Setting, Florida

INTERNERSHIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Application materials should be submitted through the APPIC website. Our program code is 1211.

Applicant Documentation Required

- Completion of the APPI online application (located at http://www.appic.org)
- Cover letter must specify which track the applicant is interested to apply. If an applicant is interested in applying to both tracks, that intention should be clearly stated, and their experience and training should support their interest.
- One sample of an integrated report from a practicum site.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three letters of recommendation (at least two from clinical supervisors)
- Official Transcripts (Graduate)

For more information, please contact Dr. Sheila Santiago Schmitt at (954) 392-3120 or E-mail sschmitt@wellpath.us
Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Date Program Tables are updated: 06/01/2020

Internship Program Admissions

This internship is accredited by the American Psychological Association and adheres to the Scholar-Practitioner model of training. We have three (3) funded internship positions. It is the goal of the program to help interns to become competent and knowledgeable psychologists working with a long-term mentally ill adult inpatient population. The facility provides treatment using a multidisciplinary psychiatric rehabilitation model. The clinical training provides each intern with a unique opportunity to gain practical experience in assessment, consultation, and intervention with a diverse patient population. South Florida State Hospital internship offers two distinct tracks to interns. A Clinical Track is completed by two interns, and it includes two six-month rotations: Psychological Evaluation and Behavior Assessment & Consultation. There is a separate 12 month Clinical Forensic Track for applicants interested in forensic psychology issues. Therefore, applicants who are interested in the Clinical Forensic Track should indicate this interest in their cover letter and the application materials. Regardless of the intern’s track, the intern will have the opportunity to build skills in the areas of forensics, psychological assessment, and behavior assessment and consultation, since all interns complete a core curriculum in clinical practice. Interns will have an opportunity to co-lead different psychoeducational groups, provide individual psychotherapy and complete psychological evaluations. They will have an opportunity to provide supervision, and will participate in diversity, forensic, and assessment seminars, and supervision of supervision group. Interns will also participate in multidisciplinary treatment team meetings.

The following requirements must be met in order to be considered for our program:

- U.S. citizenship
- Doctoral student in clinical or counseling psychology from an APA-accredited program.
- Completion of the APPI online application.
- Cover letter must specify which track the applicant is interested to apply. If an applicant is interested in applying to both tracks, that intention should be clearly stated, and their experience and training should support their interest.
- One sample of an integrated report from a practicum site.
- Certification of internship readiness by graduate program training director
- Completion of graduate program’s comprehensive/qualifying examinations by ranking submission date
- Any offer of employment, including psychology internship, is contingent upon, but not limited to, the successful completion of the following: Level 2, Florida Department of Children and Families Background Investigation; Drug testing and pre-employment physical including Tuberculosis screening; Proof of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination if born after 1957; Mandatory 5 day facility Orientation which includes certification in “MANDT,” our verbal de-escalation training process and Certified Pulmonary Resuscitation.

Due to public health precautions, selected applicants for the 2021-2022 training year would be invited to interview during the month of January via teleconference. The interview should last approximately one hour with the supervisors. An additional time would be allotted to speak with current interns about their experience. A tour of the facility and additional information about the program will be available through a video found on the internship website.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

Minimum of 600 hours of Supervision and Support Activities combined

Please note: Due to the variation in training experiences this year as a result of the pandemic, the hours above would be flexible, depending on the applicant’s circumstances and previous training.
Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns: $24,960
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns: Not Applicable

Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? 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

Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation): 10
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave: 0

In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns in excess of personal time off and sick leave? Negotiated on a case by case basis

Other Benefits (please describe): Dental Insurance, Disability Insurance, Vision Insurance, Professional Development Time, Free Lunch at Hospital’s Cafeteria

Initial Post-Internship Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PD</th>
<th>EP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community mental health center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally qualified health center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent primary care facility/clinic</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University counseling center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs medical center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military health center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic health center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other medical center or hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric hospital</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic university/department</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community college or other teaching setting</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School district/system</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent practice setting</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently employed</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed to another field</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: “PD” = Post-doctoral residency position; “EP” = Employed Position