



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC)
Spring 2023 Report to CCTC**

Mission

VA has been training future psychologists for more than 75 years. The VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC) is the membership group for all psychology internship and postdoctoral training directors in the Department of Veterans Affairs system. Created in 2008, our mission is to promote the development of VA training programs and training directors, facilitate sharing of information and resources among VA training programs, and serve as a voice for psychology training to national groups and organizations that may affect VA psychology training. More broadly, our training council serves to represent VA in matters of training in psychology and hopes to shape the future of VA professional psychology training at all levels from practicum to postdoctoral. The VAPTC Executive Committee also provides consultation to VA's Offices of Academic Affiliations, and the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention on matters pertaining to training in psychology.

VAPTC Executive Committee

Members of our Executive Committee for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Past Chair: Shiloh Jordan, PhD, ABPP, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System

Chair: Jamylah Jackson, PhD, ABPP, VA North Texas Health Care System

Chair Elect: Zoe Proctor-Weber, PhD, ABPP, Bay Pines VAHCS

Secretary: Madeleine Goodkind, PhD, New Mexico VA Health Care System

Member-at-Large: Moira Dux, PhD, VA Maryland Health Care System

Member-at-Large: Micol Levi-Minzi, PsyD, Alaska VA Healthcare System

Member-at-Large: Joanna McCormick, PhD, VA Montana Healthcare System

External Liaison: Kristin Rodzinka, PhD, ABPP Dayton VA Medical Center

2022-2023 Training Programs

VA provides Internships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Doctoral Practicum Training in many sites across the U.S. VHA's support for psychology training through the VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) has increased over the years. In academic year 2022-2023 OAA funded 711 psychology internship positions in 129 internship programs located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Similarly, OAA supports 453 postdoctoral residency positions in over 120 programs. In addition, 134 interprofessional Advanced Fellowship positions were awarded to psychology fellows across 12 focused programs in research and/or specialty clinical care. VA offers postdoctoral residency training in clinical psychology (with multiple emphasis areas) and the following specialties: health psychology, geropsychology, neuropsychology, and rehabilitation psychology. In addition to the paid training positions, the VA provided training for 560 unfunded psychology practicum students from APA-accredited doctoral programs.

Additional 2023 Highlights:

1. **Base Salary Rate Increase:** In 2022 VAPTC submitted a stipend increase proposal to OAA; successfully demonstrating the need for nationwide increases in base salary rates to match community averages for both internships and postdoctoral residencies starting academic year (AY) 2023-2024. OAA accepted the VAPTC's recommendations for base stipend increases for psychology trainees. In addition to these increases, beginning in AY 2024-2025, OAA will apply an automatic 1% base increase each academic year for all VA direct-paid trainees. This is a huge accomplishment on behalf of our trainees!
2. The VAPTC continues to provide training for new training directors and an active mentoring program, helping new training directors navigate all aspects of program management, including obtaining APA accreditation.
3. The VAPTC maintains an up-to-date SharePoint site of resources for VA training programs, including administrative materials for Training Directors, recruitment/selection resources, supervision resources, multicultural and diversity related training materials, and model curriculum for training.
4. New educational resources have been developed and distributed to the field from the Model Curriculum Committee, the Multicultural Diversity Committee, the Administrative Committee, and Tech Committee.
5. The VAPTC held a virtual meeting for its membership in September 2023. This meeting provided updates to our membership from all committees. There were 108 members/training directors in attendance.
6. The VAPTC continues to conduct monthly community of practice webinars on a wide variety of subjects. Recent topics have included guidance to internship and postdoc Training Directors regarding the Common Hold Date.
7. The VAPTC hosted a three part Assessment Series webinar in October 2022 for trainees and supervisors (MCMI-IV, PAI, and MMPI-2-RF) which was widely attended and well received.
8. Continue to support dissemination and implementation of Social Responsiveness Toolkit. Addressed in April 2022 and February 2023 Community of Practice call. Is linked from VAPTC SharePoint and within each monthly newsletter.
9. Office of Mental Health Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) and VAPTC continued their partnership to provide national "Welcome to VA Training" webinars to all VA interns and postdocs to introduce them to VA and Psychology Leadership.
10. The VAPTC presented webinars in the Fall of 2023 sponsored by APA Division 18 for internship applicants and for postdoctoral applicants.
11. VAPTC continues to note trends in reduced levels of assessment competency prior to both internship and postdoctoral residency. Assessment competency has remained a focus for this group. Efforts to develop practical solutions within VA to address administrative barriers, supervisor competency in assessment, and trainee competency in assessment continue.
12. VAPTC creates and distributes a monthly newsletter for VA Training Directors to provide updates from VA Office of Academic Affiliations, VAPTC subcommittees, and to consolidate updates from affiliated organizations such as APA, APPIC, CCTC.

13. VAPTC continues to support collaborations with APPIC and CCTC, representing VAPTC Executive Council as well as several other training councils.