



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC)
Spring 2024 Report to CCTC**

Mission

VA has been training future psychologists for more than 77 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 Office of Academic Affiliations, and the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention on matters pertaining to training in psychology.

VAPTC Executive Committee

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Members of our Executive Committee for 2023-2024 are as follows:

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

Chair: Zoe Proctor-Weber, PhD, ABPP, Bay Pines VA Health Care System

Chair Elect: Samuel Wan, PhD, San Francisco VA Health Care System

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

Member-at-Large: Andrea Burns, PhD, Atlanta 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

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

2023-2024 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 2023-24 VA filled 667 of 711 OAA-funded psychology internship positions in 125 internship programs (93.8%) located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Similarly, VA filled 328 of the 453 OAA-funded postdoctoral residency positions in over 120 programs (72.4%). In addition, 122 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, in 2021-22 the VA provided training

for 580 unfunded psychology practicum students from APA, CPA, and PCSAS-accredited doctoral programs.

Additional 2023-2024 Highlights:

1. VAPTC is continuing in our efforts to diversify the pipeline. VA is working to educate other training counsels about VAs plan to increase the number of slots offered through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. For additional information about how students can apply for psychology scholarships please go to the following site ([HPSP Programs - Veterans Affairs Scholarship Program \(intelliworxit.com\)](https://intelliworxit.com))
2. VA Training Directors are also collaborating with the VA Training Recruitment and Hiring Workgroup to facilitate more effective and efficient hiring of current and former psychology trainees.
3. The VA is working towards establishing more standardized start dates for Psychology Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowships.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The VAPTC continues to conduct monthly community of practice webinars on a wide variety of subjects. Recent topics have included ways to utilize VA REDCap within training programs, orientation to VA Office of Academic Affiliations resources, and a presentation on a variety of licensure related topics in partnership with ASPPB.
7. The VAPTC hosted its second annual October Assessment Series of webinars in October 2023 for trainees and supervisors to include assessment of ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, and psychiatric malingering. This series was widely attended and well received. Materials including recordings continue to be available to VA psychologists and trainees.
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. 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.
10. 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.
11. VAPTC continues to support collaborations with APPIC and CCTC, representing VAPTC Executive Council as well as several other training councils.