

PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP

MCC CHICAGO
2025-2026



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This has been the best
training opportunity
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— Bianca Bullock, Doctoral Intern



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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.

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Introduction

The Psychology Services Department at Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in Chicago, Illinois, is delighted you are considering your doctoral internship with us. We hope this brochure will serve to answer some basic questions about our internship program, as well as dispel some of the more common stereotypes about working with a prison population.

This brochure will provide you with information about both the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) in general, and MCC Chicago specifically. It begins with an overview of the FBOP as well as the roles of Psychology Services and the Psychology Internship Program within the FBOP.

The second part of this brochure provides a detailed discussion of the Psychology Internship Program at MCC Chicago. Included is information about the population, intern duties, research opportunities, didactic training, supervision, and benefits. We've also included information about our Psychology Services staff and the local area to help you get to know us better.

The brochure concludes with a discussion of career opportunities within the FBOP as well as the instructions for applying to our internship program. We encourage you to look at our [Doctoral Intern](#) and [Staff Psychologist](#) web pages to learn more about the opportunities that exist at the FBOP.

For interns, the selection and location of the doctoral internship are two of the largest factors in determining subsequent career direction. We encourage you to consider the material you read in this brochure carefully. We believe our training program is of the highest quality and will both challenge and support you as you develop into a confident and knowledgeable mental health professional. We currently have four intern positions available at our site and look forward to receiving your application.

Overview of the Federal Bureau of Prisons

Over the last 90 years, the FBOP has established 122 institutions and currently houses approximately 153,000 offenders. With the Core Values of Accountability, Integrity, Respect, Compassion, and Correctional Excellence, the FBOP has earned the reputation as one of the most elite correctional agencies in the world.

Individuals convicted of the most serious offenses and those whose institutional adjustment is poor are housed in high security settings, or penitentiaries. Most incarcerated individuals live in medium, low, or minimum security institutions which provide greater degrees of personal freedom. All facilities have in-house support services, including Education, Medical and Psychology Services Departments.

Although all incarcerated individuals are convicted of federal crimes and separated from the community, all of them are individuals, each with his or her (about seven percent are female) own needs and abilities. Many incarcerated individuals have serious mental health and behavioral disorders and require assistance to maintain psychological stability necessary to function adequately in their environment. Therefore, psychology services play an integral role in mental health treatment of the federal population.

The FBOP provides ample resources toward reentry programming to assist those who are motivated to change maladaptive thought and behavior patterns. Through the myriad of programs developed to address criminogenic needs, the federal recidivism rate has declined to only 34%, half the rate of many large State Departments of Corrections. These reentry programs include academic and vocational programs, chaplaincy programs, and a wide range of psychological services.

Psychology Services in the Federal Bureau of Prisons

With a team of over 35,000 employees, including more than 600 psychologists and another 600+ clinical service providers and psychology administrative support staff, the FBOP is one of the largest employers of mental health professionals in the United States. In addition to psychology technicians and mid-level provider “Treatment Specialists,” Psychology Services in the FBOP employs doctoral-level clinical and counseling psychologists. Psychologists are required to be licensed or license-eligible, and are encouraged to seek further credentialing (e.g., e.g., American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), American Psychological Association (APA) Division Fellowship). Maintaining professional competencies is a priority and annual continuing education is provided to every FBOP psychologist.

The primary mission of Psychology Services within the FBOP is to provide psychological, psychoeducational, and consulting services to incarcerated individuals and staff. Psychology Services staff assess the needs of each person in custody and ensures all incarcerated individuals with mental health needs have access to the level of psychological care comparable to that available in the community. The focus of treatment varies from crisis-based interventions to the modification of deeply entrenched maladaptive patterns of thinking and behaving. Incarcerated individuals within the FBOP may present with a range of diagnoses, to include psychotic disorders, personality disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders, and/or cognitive impairment. Psychologists in the FBOP engage in a wide variety of clinical activities including psychodiagnostic assessment and treatment planning, individual therapy, group therapy, suicide prevention, and self-help and supportive services. In addition, Psychology Services staff collaborate with a multidisciplinary team and provide consultation to medical, custody, and unit team staff to provide comprehensive treatment and reentry resources to incarcerated individuals in our care.

Psychology Services at MCC Chicago

MCC Chicago opened in 1975, as a project developed from the vision of US District Judge William J. Campbell. The vision of MCC Chicago was to allow the US Marshals Service (USMS) to house pretrial detainees close to the federal courthouse, allowing those detained to have convenient access to their attorneys and to the courts. The FBOP was tasked with the management of this facility, making it a multiagency collaboration involving the FBOP, US District Courts, and the USMS. More than 45 years later, MCC Chicago continues to be regarded as a model for pretrial detention of federal detainees who are awaiting disposition of their court cases. Since the establishment of this detention center, the mission has grown in dynamic ways. In response to the changing dynamics of those incarcerated, the FBOP and MCC Chicago have adapted the provision of mental health services to meet those changes.

MCC Chicago has several missions and purposes. The institution houses five distinct populations: male pretrial detainees, a work cadre of individuals serving their prison sentence, individuals in holdover status, competency restoration forensic cases, and a small unit of female pretrial detainees. While primarily housing pretrial detainees, this facility also serves as a regional transit hub used by both the FBOP and the USMS. As such, the MCC is classified as an administrative security level facility. This means MCC Chicago houses individuals from all security levels: high, medium, low, and minimum. As an efficient way of moving incarcerated individuals to their final designated institution, MCC Chicago often serves as temporary housing for those in transit. This means there are hundreds of incarcerated individuals each year who are in transit status, some of whom display difficulties with acute adjustment while they are in transit. Additionally, many of these individuals are coming from various county jails and sometimes state prisons in other jurisdictions who have different standards of mental health care. MCC Chicago often serves as the first point of contact with the FBOP, and the Psychology Services staff often serve a critical role of identifying and initiating treatment for those in a transit status.

MCC Chicago is often tasked with identifying and treating those with serious mental illness who have had gaps in their care prior to their detention at this facility. In this way, the MCC often encounters individuals who display a great need for services due to the severity of their presentation. Rapid assessment and development of appropriate treatment plans becomes a core foundational piece of the work for the Psychology Services staff at this facility.

MCC Chicago Psychology Internship Program

The MCC also has a strong and long-standing forensic mission. This facility, based on its location and other missions, is an ideal site for forensic evaluations. As a result, the MCC receives referrals for forensic examinations from all 92 US District Court jurisdictions. The primary forensic questions which require assessment are most frequently related to 18 USC 4241(b) and 4242(b): competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility. A variety of other forensic questions are asked, but on a less frequent basis. Due to the long history of forensic examinations and strong team of evaluators, the FBOP has recently tasked MCC Chicago with an additional mission; Jail-based Competency Restoration. This pilot program is designed to increase the treatment capacity of the FBOP, enabling the agency to address the treatment needs of those identified with serious mental illness in a timely manner. This program began receiving participants in January 2023.

MCC Chicago also has a long history of training psychology students and providing pathways to employment in the FBOP. The practicum program at the MCC has been in operation for more than 30 years, typically with four practicum students each year. Since tracking student progress over the last 15 years, the MCC has helped train more than 30 students who have ultimately become employed at the FBOP. As student training has been one of the foundational pieces of the Psychology Services Department, we are excited about the new Doctoral Internship Program!

MCC Chicago has a unique set of programs which differentiates it from other FBOP Psychology Internships. The MCC is primarily a pretrial detention center and offers different programs to those who are held in custody. The group programs are largely based around short-term psychoeducational groups, as the population at this facility is dynamic and changes rapidly. This gives interns the opportunity to develop skills related to the provision of meaningful services for those who will be in custody for only a short period of time. The MCC also has a strong forensic program which dates back to the 1990s. This gives interns the opportunity to see the intersection of mental health assessment and law. Based on the new mission, Jail-based Competency Restoration, interns will also have the opportunity to gain experience with the intersection of mental health treatment and law. Training is designed to provide an understanding of the totality of the process when individuals with severe mental illness are charged with a criminal offense, identified as having psychological concerns, as well as how to formulate diagnoses and effective treatment strategies.

MCC Chicago Psychology Internship Program

As noted previously, MCC Chicago also houses a small number of females who are mostly in pretrial status. Women who are incarcerated represent a relatively small percentage of all incarcerated individuals; however, the need for effective treatment is often seen in this population. While trauma has been frequently experienced historically by both males and females who are incarcerated, the need for gender responsive intervention becomes a cornerstone of treatment. Interns at the MCC have the opportunity to provide a meaningful impact for these incarcerated individuals and develop a set of skills which enable them to become well rounded clinicians.

The Psychology Services Department at the MCC is staffed by eleven psychologists and two Treatment Specialists. These positions include a Chief Psychologist, an Internship Program Coordinator, six Forensic Studies Unit Psychologists, a Drug Abuse Program Coordinator, an Advanced Care Level Psychologist, a Staff Psychologist, a Drug Treatment Specialist, and an Advanced Care Treatment Specialist.

Psychology Internship at MCC Chicago

Program Aim, Competencies, and Outcomes

The aim of the Doctoral Psychology Internship Program at MCC Chicago is to train entry-level professional psychologists who can also function competently in the correctional environment. This is achieved by using the following competencies as benchmarks for our training of interns:

Competency 1: Research – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in understanding and applying scientific research to the practice of psychology generally, and the professional practice of psychology in corrections specifically.

Competency 2: Ethical and Legal Standards – The intern will demonstrate proficiency practicing psychology within the boundaries of the ethical and legal principles governing professional behavior. The intern will also demonstrate a commitment to professional growth and development generally, and within the correctional environment specifically.

Competency 3: Individual and Cultural Diversity – The intern will demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to cultural factors impacting clinical services with diverse individuals, groups, and communities who represent various cultural and personal backgrounds and characteristics.

Competency 4: Professional Values and Attitudes – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in providing psychological services that are consistent with professional values, beliefs, and practices within the field generally, and within the correctional environment specifically.

Competency 5: Communication and Interpersonal Skills – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in both written and verbal communication with peers, supervisors, and other staff that is timely, accurate, and jargon free.

Competency 6: Assessment – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in conducting screening, assessment, and diagnosis for a wide range of disorders and problems, using a multimodal approach, specific to the needs of the situation for individuals, groups, and/or organizations.

Competency 7: Intervention – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in planning and implementing a variety of evidence-based practices, including empirically supported treatments, to address mental health needs among individuals, groups, and organizations.

Competency 8: Supervision – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in understanding basic principles of clinical supervision (e.g., building supervisory alliance, providing and accepting effective summative feedback, promoting growth and self-assessment of peer/trainee, seeking consultation) and apply these principles as peer supervisors during group supervision and/or with doctoral practicum students, if available.

Competency 9: Consultation & Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills – The intern will demonstrate proficiency in fostering and coordinating relationships with various disciplines in the correctional environment (e.g., management, correctional services, unit management and health services) by providing written and verbal communication, and professional assistance responses to client or system needs and aims.

Through the combination of individual and group supervision, experiential learning elements (e.g., direct provision of mental health services), and educational activities (e.g., didactic presentations, assigned readings), interns will gain knowledge and skills in the above-listed domains within a correctional environment. Exposure to a correctional facility and an incarcerated population will contribute to interns being well trained for continued work within a prison setting. Perhaps the best indicator of this effort lies in the fact that, historically, about 50% of our interns are hired as staff psychologists within the FBOP shortly after graduation.

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However, training is purposely tailored to be sufficiently broad so that interns are well suited for work in a wide variety of clinical settings.

The internship program is structured to ensure interns receive training in all aspects of the Psychology Services Department. Interns bring considerable knowledge of psychological theory and science-based practice gained in academic and practicum settings. During internship, interns are further exposed to the scientific basis of psychological practice via didactic seminars, assigned readings and supervision of clinical work. In addition, the internship program provides abundant exposure to the application of critical/scientific thinking in the understanding and treatment of individual cases through clinical training experiences and clinical supervision.

The training philosophy of the internship program emphasizes experiential learning and considers both the tremendous opportunities available within our setting and the inherent challenges of working in a prison environment. Interns will learn by providing a variety of psychological services to incarcerated individuals throughout the training year and by collaborating with staff in other disciplines. To facilitate professional independence and confidence, training experiences proceed in a sequential, cumulative, and graded manner. For example, at the beginning of the year, interns may initially observe supervisory staff conduct rounds, perform intake interviews, and engage in crisis intervention. Interns subsequently perform these functions in the presence of supervisory staff and as interns feel more comfortable and display increased competence, they perform these tasks independently.

Through the internship training program, interns will develop a satisfying professional identity based on self-awareness and confidence in generalist assessment, intervention, and consultation skills, as well as exposure to specialty areas of professional practice in the field of corrections. Interns are challenged to participate actively in individual and group supervision, staff meetings, and didactic seminars.

Internship Duties

Interns are required to complete 2,000 hours of training over a 12-month period, along with identified clinical experiences and adequate ratings on intern evaluations, to successfully complete the internship program. Training experiences include clinical contacts, supervision, didactics, and other professional activities. Interns at MCC Chicago, like all FBOP employees, are considered essential workers and are expected to report to the institution Mondays through Fridays (excluding federal holidays), even during the COVID pandemic and other potential emergency situations. The internship year begins in August and ends the following August, and normal working hours for interns are considered 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note all interns will receive generalist training working as a psychologist-in-training within a correctional environment. A basic description of additional training experiences will follow.

Internship Rotations

Correctional Psychology

Provision of psychological services for the general population remains a core responsibility of any correctional psychologist. MCC Chicago houses upwards of 700 individuals at any given time. The population of the MCC is dynamic and many individuals pass through the MCC quickly. The MCC has several missions including housing pretrial detainees, individuals in holdover status transferring to other correctional facilities, a work cadre, a female detention unit, and a complex forensic studies unit. Typical requests for services from incarcerated individuals residing in general population pertain to depression, anxiety, adjustment issues, identity issues, desire for self-improvement, grief issues, and/or family-related distress.

Psychology Interns will be actively involved in the assessment and provision of varied clinical activities associated with meeting the psychological needs of the general population. This starts with an initial review of new commits and triage of those individuals for provision of appropriate care. Such clinical activities include providing individual and group therapy, completing psychological intake assessments with those entering the MCC, obtaining and reviewing psychological treatment reports and assessment data, completing psychological assessments (e.g., MMPI-3, PAI, WAIS-IV) when indicated, developing diagnostic impressions and treatment plans, and writing comprehensive psychological notes which convey treatment needs. It is important for interns to learn the value of this work as the vast majority of

MCC Chicago Psychology Internship Program

individuals interns work with will be transferring to other facilities during the course of the internship year. Providing a baseline of psychological functioning which aids psychologists at subsequent facilities helps create continuity of care for those individuals which in turn facilitates better long-term outcomes.

Psychology Interns will also be actively involved in learning how to complete, document, and disseminate suicide risk assessments, and will complete psychological assessments in response to referrals from other departments. Psychology Interns will also develop case conceptualizations of incarcerated individuals presenting with symptoms of a psychological disorder, conduct psychological reviews of those housed in the Special Housing Unit, and make referrals to medical staff for psychotropic medication evaluations. Additionally, MCC Chicago houses a growing number of individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness and personality disorders. The effective management of this group of offenders is crucial and typically requires the utilization of significant psychology resources. Effective work with this population also requires building relationships with other correctional disciplines and collaborating with other professionals to provide effective care and management of those individuals while they are housed at the MCC.

MCC Chicago provides services for the unique population of female offenders, and interns will have the opportunity to work with this population during the correctional psychology rotation. This correctional psychology treatment area offers interns the opportunity to provide general mental health treatment to this unique population as well as assist in facilitating the trauma informed psychological interventions. Responsibilities within this area will require the use of clinical interviewing skills to conduct initial evaluations, diagnostic interviews, and trauma-based assessments. Interns will also work closely with their direct supervisor to decide on group-based treatments, which meet both the unique needs of incarcerated women as well as provide comparable treatment protocols which are available to the male incarcerated population. Interns will also be responsible for writing individualized treatment plans which address the relevant mental health needs of this specialty population and will then be responsible for implementing those interventions.

The opportunity to provide meaningful services to this specialty population is something that is not offered at many correctional facilities; students who have worked on this unit in the past have often reported this as an invaluable training experience, as it provided them a strong

base of clinical skills and experience which prepare them for similar work in the future. The FBOP has a strong, comprehensive program for addressing complex trauma with incarcerated populations called the Resolve Program. Interns working on this unit have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the initial entry phase of the Resolve Program.

Forensic Evaluation

On this major rotation, the intern will complete evaluations of pretrial defendants referred to the MCC from federal jurisdictions across the country. Most referrals request opinions on the issues of competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, or both. The intern will gain experience in the process of planning and completing these psychological evaluations and applying the various federal legal standards to the referral issues. Great emphasis is placed on the preparation of written reports which are thorough and address the intersection of psychology and law. The learning objective is for interns to gain familiarity with how to apply psychological principles to the legal process within the scope of the legal question and in a manner which clarifies the opinion for legal professionals. The intern may have an opportunity to accompany staff members to court hearings and/or trials to observe the adversarial process of legal proceedings. Because Psychology Interns complete evaluations of forensic patients with their supervisors, they are also subject to being subpoenaed to provide testimony in US District Court. Additionally, the interns on this rotation gain experience in evaluating defendants who have been legally determined to be unfit-to-stand trial. The intern is involved in the process of assessing whether treatment efforts have been successful in restoring the defendant to appropriate competency related functional ability.

Serious Mental Illness

The focus of this rotation includes training experiences that are clinical, administrative, and case management-oriented with the seriously mentally ill population at MCC Chicago. These incarcerated individuals are typically diagnosed with psychotic spectrum disorders, severe mood disorders, and/or are cognitively impaired. Interns are involved in clinical services that include assessment of client needs, treatment planning, individual and group therapy, psycho-educational classes, and medication management. The overall purpose is to reduce psychological distress and to empower participants in the management of their symptoms, as

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well as providing meaningful interventions that address the underlying disorder and acute presentation of the illness. The intern will facilitate an ongoing Illness Management and Recovery Group as well as other evidence-based practices. Training is provided on the process for evaluating the individual's appropriate care level and determining the necessary services. The FBOP has a multi-care level system which directs the schedule and provision of services for individuals with serious mental illness. Diagnostic and Care Level Formulations, Treatment Plans, Mental Health Transfer Summaries, Clinical Contacts, and Individual Therapy documents are prepared alongside treatment and are submitted through the electronic medical record. A significant part of this rotation is the facilitation of clinical interventions on the Jail-based Competency Restoration Unit. This is a pilot program for the FBOP, the purpose of which is to address treatment needs of defendants determined unfit-to-stand trial. During this rotation, interns also have the opportunity to facilitate competency restoration groups, which are psychoeducational groups for pretrial defendants related to relevant psycho-legal issues.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

The Psychology Intern is focused on providing aspects of various drug abuse treatment programming on this rotation. Interns are part of the clinical team, which oversees and administers the Drug Education Class. Drug Education is a psychoeducational experience which provides instruction to incarcerated individuals regarding how drugs affect the body. This psychoeducation is a policy required program which serves as the basic orientation to substance use disorder and often sets the stage for more comprehensive substance use disorder treatment. MCC Chicago also offers the Non-Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program to many individuals in various custodial circumstances, and interns have the opportunity to conduct their own Non-Residential Drug Treatment Group. This is a weekly process-oriented, cognitive behavioral group which is provided alongside an individualized treatment plan. Individuals participating in this program do so voluntarily, demonstrating a commitment to treatment. The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program was also recently introduced at MCC Chicago for those with a history of opioid use and dependence. As such, interns can participate in the screening process and consultation with Health Services to provide this treatment to qualified individuals.

Didactic Training

Didactics at MCC Chicago occur on a weekly basis and are typically attended by multiple members of the department. These are usually a series of educational and collegial discussions designed to provide additional insight and learning related to many facets of correctional psychology. The didactic schedule sample included in the appendix of this brochure is an example of the topics we hope to cover in the 2024-2025 training year. In addition to the didactics provided by MCC Chicago, the FBOP offers other additional training and didactic opportunities which are provided virtually.

A Day in the Life of a MCC Chicago Intern

Every day at the FBOP is new and exciting and will vary depending on the needs of the facility, the Psychology Services Department, and incarcerated individuals. Exposure to constant stimulation is key in the development and engagement of our interns. Recognizing that there is no “typical day” at the FBOP, we’ve included a sample below of what a day could look like for one of our interns while providing general services in accordance with the General Population/Mental Health Rotation. Time devoted to the specialty rotations is worked out with those identified supervisors during the course of the specialty rotation.

Time	Activity
07:30 am	Arrive to work and catch up on emails
08:30am	Intake Screenings
09:30am	Department Meeting
10:00am	Didactic
11:00am	Lunch
11:30am	Group Therapy
01:00pm	Individual Therapy
02:00pm	Administrative Tasks/Note Writing
03:00pm	Individual Supervision
04:00pm	Leave work with fellow interns

Supervision

While interns will be assigned primary supervisors for the duration of the clinical training year, they will also be assigned clinical supervisors for their specialty rotations. The MCC maintains an open and collaborative team approach to all clinical activities and department functions. Interns are encouraged to develop working relationships with all Psychology Services staff in order to benefit from a variety of supervision styles and perspectives. Psychology Services staff are always available for supplemental consultation and supervision for Psychology Interns when needed.

Formalized evaluation of each intern will occur at regular intervals. These evaluations will include input from the primary supervisor, the supervisor assigned to provide guidance over the specific rotation, and from other staff who have had relevant and meaningful contact with the intern during the evaluation period.

MCC Chicago adheres to APA guidelines for supervision. These include a minimum of two hours of group supervision each week and two hours of individual supervision by a licensed psychologist. Individual supervision is tailored to the needs of each person and can include review of written notes and reports, discussion of therapy cases, review of taped sessions, and live supervision of sessions. Professional development is emphasized as well as clinical service provision. In addition to the regularly scheduled weekly supervision mentioned above, licensed psychologists are readily available for consultation and supervision as necessary. At the beginning of the training year, rotation supervisors and interns discuss personal goals interns may have related to their professional development. Every effort is made to provide learning experiences and relevant supervision to help interns achieve their desired goals and improve upon targeted competency areas.

The MCC Chicago training program recognizes that no two individuals are the same, and that to be successful, clinicians must be trained to recognize the myriad presentations informed not only by diagnostic difference but by cultural difference arising from unique backgrounds and histories. To recognize individual differences is to recognize their strengths and the specific variables that allow them to overcome challenges and to work with their providers to reduce symptoms and work toward mental health. Furthermore, our supervision is geared toward providing interns with the ability to recognize their strengths as providers but also any tendencies toward bias and the ways in which such tendencies interfere in the therapeutic process, hindering

treatment progress for their clients. Such discussions are inter-woven into daily practice, weekly supervision with interns, and didactic learning.

The Internship Program Coordinator serves as a resource for interns and is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the internship program. They make training assignments, handle clinical and administrative problems, plan the sequence of formal training experiences, prevent duplication of experiences, and maintain close contact with other supervisors.

Intern Evaluation

Formal evaluation of each intern's performance occurs at the end of each rotation. Informal, written mid-rotation progress reports are also provided. Interns are evaluated using a tool common to all FBOP internship training sites. The evaluation measures intern progress regarding the following profession-wide competencies, as delineated by APA: Research; Ethical and Legal Standards; Individual and Cultural Diversity; Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors; Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Assessment; Intervention; Supervision; and Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills. Supervisors complete the evaluation form and discuss the results with the intern. Signed copies of the evaluation forms are maintained in the interns' files and a copy is sent to the interns' academic Director of Training.

Our aim at MCC Chicago is for each intern to successfully complete internship and to assist all interns in developing the skills to do so. Performance expectations, the aims of the program, the evaluation schedule, and the FBOP Standards of Conduct are delineated at the outset of the training year. On occasion, it is possible that specific performance or conduct concerns may need to be addressed. The Due Process procedures at MCC Chicago address any such problems and will be made available to all matched interns during the orientation week of the internship program. In addition to a hard copy description of the procedures, the Internship Program Coordinator will review them with interns to ensure they completely comprehend their rights, resources, and responsibilities. These procedures can be made available to interested applicants upon request.

The internship program values and actively solicits feedback from interns regarding their experiences in the overall internship program, each rotation, and each supervisor. Consequently,

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interns complete evaluations of the internship program and the supervisors after each rotation and at the end of the training year. This feedback is shared anonymously and strongly considered when making modifications to the training program.

Members of the Psychology Services Department at MCC Chicago are committed to providing interns with a quality training experience and strive to meet interns' training needs in all areas, including supervision, evaluation, the assignment of work, quality or type of training experiences, the establishment and maintenance of respectful supervisory relationships, and working environment. However, during the course of the internship experience, interns may have concerns regarding these or other issues. As with our Due Process procedures, the Grievance Procedures at MCC Chicago are made available to interns and reviewed during orientation. These procedures can also be made available to those interested upon request.

Benefits

Interns will receive the following benefits:

- A GS-09, Step 1 salary of approximately \$66,942 (as of 2024)
- Paid annual and sick leave, accrued at four hours per pay period
- Paid federal holidays
- Health insurance
- Professional development benefits, including a fully funded conference in Denver with interns across all FBOP institutions.
- For interns who require maternity or paternity leave, they will be expected to first use all accrued hours of annual and sick leave. For additional time off that is not covered by accrued leave, the intern would need to submit a request for leave without pay to the Warden. In the event of maternity or paternity leave, the Internship Program Coordinator will work closely with the intern to ensure all requirements for internship and clinical training hours are completed in a timely manner.
- Liability coverage for on-site professional activities
- Career conversion opportunity: Pending successful completion of the internship program, interns that are interested in continuing a career with the FBOP are eligible for immediate conversion into a FBOP Staff Psychologist role. This is an

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exciting benefit as interns will not have to apply for a full-time role through USAJobs, and will be able to immediately begin their full-time job with FBOP employee benefits.

APA Accreditation and APPIC Membership

MCC Chicago is a provisional member of the Association of Psychology Post-doctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The Psychology Internship Program at MCC Chicago is currently in its early stages and, as such, is not accredited by the APA. The FBOP currently has 21 Psychology Doctoral Internship Programs, with 13 accredited by the APA, and eight new programs. The FBOP has a long-standing reputation of commitment to excellence at the various doctoral internship sites. MCC Chicago will continue to build on the internship traditions, accomplishments, proven standard operating procedures, and core elements displayed by our fellow FBOP institutions.

Any questions or concerns regarding the accreditation status of the MCC Chicago should be addressed to:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

American Psychological Association

750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242

Phone: (202) 336-5979

Email: apaaccred@apa.org

Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

Any questions or concerns regarding the adherence of this program to the policies of the APPIC match process may be referred to:

Chair, APPIC Standards and Review Committee

17225 El Camino Real

Onyx One-Suite #170

Houston, TX 77058-2748

Phone: (832) 284-4080

Email: appic@appic.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Won't my training be too limited if I just work with incarcerated individuals?

A: Virtually any mental health issue that exists among the general population of adults in our culture also exists among incarcerated individuals. There are many parallels that can be drawn between the presenting problems and client characteristics of prisons and community mental health centers. For example, there are those who use mental health services appropriately and those that may be motivated by a secondary gain, clients in crisis and those with less acute but more long-term concerns, and some with greater psychological resources than others. The benchmark study by Boothby and Clements (2000) notes that psychologists working in correctional settings frequently treat pathology (e.g., depression, anger, psychosis, anxiety) that is nearly identical to non-correctional settings. Although some incarcerated individuals fit the popular stereotype of the hard-core criminal or repeat offender, others genuinely want to change the maladaptive behavior and thought patterns that led them to prison. Others experience serious mental illness, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Q: How “marketable” will my internship be?

A: Following APA guidelines for the doctoral internship experience, we seek interns who are interested in being trained as generalists. Upon completion of training, many interns accept offers of employment with the FBOP. However, others assume positions in community mental health centers, private practices, hospitals, and other settings (Magaletta, Patry, & Norcross, 2012). Interns who work in correctional settings are regularly provided opportunities to strengthen skills in the areas of crisis intervention, individual and group psychotherapy, substance treatment, psychological evaluation, diagnosis, treatment planning, and intake screenings (Magaletta & Boothby, 2003). On the basis of this exposure, former FBOP psychology interns now hold positions not only in FBOP facilities, but also VA Medical Centers, rehabilitation centers, psychiatric hospitals, community mental health centers, regional correctional facilities, academic positions, and private practices.

Q: Is it safe to work in a prison?

A: The safety of both staff and incarcerated individuals is the highest priority of the FBOP. The FBOP has implemented security procedures and installed an array of equipment to make the facilities safe for staff and incarcerated individuals alike. FBOP staff are trained to address any situation with the intent to verbally de-escalate, and we have policies guiding this approach. Although it would be impossible to unconditionally guarantee anyone's safety in a correctional (or any other work) setting, the single most important skill of any mental health professional working in a correctional setting is his/her ability to listen and communicate effectively with both staff and incarcerated individuals (Magaletta & Boothby, 2003).

Q: Do I need a certain number of clinical hours in a correctional facility to be eligible for an internship with the FBOP?

A: No. There is no specified number of direct-client contact hours needed to apply. Historically, interns have had a wide range of experiences in both non-correctional and correctional settings. There are numerous settings that provide training that is relevant to a correctional setting, including but not limited to: inpatient hospitals, locked settings, exposure to serious mental illness, substance abuse treatment facilities, etc.

Q: What do I need to do to complete the internship?

A: There are three aspects of training that all interns must attain to successfully complete an internship. First, interns are evaluated in each of the nine profession-wide competencies (Research, Ethical/Legal Standards, etc.) via a formal evaluation at the end of every quarter. Interns must achieve a minimum level of achievement score for all nine competencies on the final fourth quarter evaluation. Second, at the beginning of each rotation, the intern and the supervisor agree on a set of training activities that coincide with the nine profession-wide competencies that must be achieved in order to complete that specific rotation. Finally, interns are required to complete 2,000 hours of clinical training and will submit one formal psychological assessment during the internship which is an adequate reflection of their clinical

abilities. At MCC Chicago, interns will complete a case presentation during the second half of the training year. This case presentation is designed to highlight both the intern's clinical skills as well as provide a platform for continued clinical growth. Interns are encouraged to select a case which has been challenging and use the case conference as a platform to offer hypotheses and receive feedback from the clinical team about treatment strategies. The clinical team includes both supervisors and trainees and is designed to be a collaborative and supportive opportunity to continue to develop professional skills.

MCC Chicago Psychologists

Dave Szyhowski, Psy.D. (Chief Psychologist)

Dr. Szyhowski has been working in correction since 2004, in various capacities, starting as a contractor with state correctional agencies and as a Doctoral Intern. He received his Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2008, and immediately began working for the FBOP at the Satellite Prison Camp in Bryan, Texas. In 2010, he transferred to MCC Chicago as a Forensic Psychologist and remained in this role until December 2021, when he became Chief Psychologist. Dr. Szyhowski has spent many years working with female offenders and believes a holistic and responsive approach to psychotherapy is the best starting place for most therapeutic contacts. When not at work, he spends his free time out with his dog, cooking, or immersed in family activities with his wife and kids. On most weekends there is a good chance you will find him at the zoo or one of the other local museums.

Robin Watkins, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic Unit Psychologist)

Dr. Watkins earned her Ph.D. from Northern Illinois University in 2004. She completed her Doctoral Internship at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in Lexington, Kentucky. She worked for seven years conducting forensic evaluations for the Illinois 16th Judicial Circuit, as well as in private practice. She conducted therapy with adults, adolescents, and children, as well as threat assessments, sex offender risk evaluations, and fitness for duty/pre-employment evaluations for public safety positions. In 2011, she returned to the FBOP, and worked at FMC Devens (MA) and FCC Butner (NC), and is currently working at MCC

Chicago. She has worked on a mental health unit with severely and persistently mentally ill individuals, and has conducted competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, sexual dangerousness, and pre-sentence evaluations in the FBOP. In addition to her forensic duties, Dr. Watkins currently serves as the Practicum Training Coordinator and Diversity Management Instructor at MCC Chicago. Dr. Watkins obtained board certification in forensic psychology with the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in 2016, and is active in service to the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP).

Kristin Conlon, Psy.D. (Forensic Unit Psychologist)

Dr. Conlon received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2012. She completed her Doctoral Internship at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and post-doctoral fellowship at Ancora State Psychiatric Hospital in New Jersey. Dr. Conlon remained at Ancora Psychiatric Hospital as a Clinical Psychologist from 2013-2018 conducting assessments and providing treatment to individuals who were civilly committed or adjudicated Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. She began her FBOP career in 2018, at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a Staff Psychologist. In 2021, she became the Staff Psychologist at MCC Chicago before being selected as the Forensic Unit Psychologist in 2022. Her clinical interests are severe and persistent mental illness, group therapy and professional identity development. Dr. Conlon is licensed in the state of Pennsylvania.

Bianca Vigil, Psy.D. (Internship Program Coordinator)

Dr. Vigil received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in July 2019. She initially became interested in a career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons while in graduate school after working at MCC Chicago as a practicum student in 2017-2018. She completed her doctoral internship at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 2018-2019. She began working as a Staff Psychologist at FCC Terre Haute in October 2019, and during that time, she was responsible for the duties of the Restrictive Housing Psychologist at the United States Penitentiary (USP) while the position was vacant. She was also the primary psychologist in the Special Confinement Unit (SCU) during the federal executions which took place in 2020 and 2021. In January 2021, she was selected as the first Resolve Non-Residential Trauma

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Program Coordinator for USP Terre Haute. As the Resolve Program was a new mission for the institution, Dr. Vigil worked closely with Central Office and other Resolve Coordinators to initiate the program. She moved to her current position as Internship Program Coordinator at MCC Chicago in August 2022, and she helped to launch the program as it was again a new mission for the institution. In addition to her current duties as Internship Program Coordinator, she provides clinical services to a variety of incarcerated individuals and has served as a mental health expert on the Crisis Support Team since the Spring of 2020. Her primary interests are supervision of trainees, crisis intervention, supporting staff, and treatment of trauma-related stress. In her free time, Dr. Vigil enjoys spending time with her dog and her family, as well as enjoying the amazing restaurants Chicago has to offer. She is licensed in the state of Indiana.

Yasmeen Abdelaal, Psy.D. (Forensic Unit Psychologist)

Dr. Abdelaal completed her doctorate degree in clinical psychology in Chicago, Illinois, where she also received training as an extern with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) at MCC Chicago. Prior to obtaining her doctoral degree, she earned a Master of Arts in Counseling with a specialization in forensic psychology. She completed her internship with the FBOP at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in Lexington, Kentucky, where she received training as the forensic intern. Following the internship, she completed an American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) waived forensic post-doctoral fellowship at Netcare Forensic Center in Columbus, Ohio. She remained at Netcare Forensic Center as a full-time Forensic Psychologist where she conducted court-ordered forensic evaluations, such as competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and conditional release risk assessments and provided didactic trainings for the post-doctoral fellow. She recently returned to MCC Chicago as a Forensic Psychologist where she conducts court-ordered forensic evaluations in accordance with federal statutes. She is licensed in the state of Ohio. Her interests include forensic evaluation, assessment, risk assessment, and relevancy focused forensic report writing.

Nicole Osborn, Psy.D. (Forensic Unit Psychologist)

Dr. Osborn received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Wright Institute in July 2017. While in graduate school, she completed a variety of practicum experiences in

detention centers, private practice, community mental health centers, and at MCFP Springfield. She completed her Doctoral Internship at Comprehensive Outpatient Recovery Treatment and Evaluation in Delray Beach, Florida. During internship, she provided treatment and conducted evaluations for parents who were referred through the Department of Children and Family Services and for individuals on probation. She completed her Post-Doctoral training at West Central Georgia Regional Hospital (WCGRH) in Columbus, Georgia. She was subsequently hired as Forensic Psychologist following the completion of her Post-Doctoral training. While at WCGRH, she primarily focused on competency to stand trial evaluations, criminal responsibility evaluations, and violence risk assessments. She further testified as an expert witness in state and superior courts. She began working at FCC Terre Haute in August 2020, as an Advanced Care Level Psychologist where she provided treatment to incarcerated individuals identified as needing closer supervision or a greater level of care. Dr. Osborn was selected as a Forensic Psychologist at MCC Chicago in 2022, where she currently conducts court-ordered forensic evaluations. She is licensed in the state of Georgia. Her interests include forensic evaluation, competency restoration treatment, violence risk assessment, and serious mental illness.

Drew J. Miller, Ph.D. (Forensics Unit Psychologist)

Dr. Miller graduated from Purdue University in 2011, with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He first joined the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) as a pre-doctoral intern at FMC Rochester but left to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology with Minnesota State Operated Forensic Services (now Minnesota Forensic Services). After completing forensic evaluations with youth for Juvenile Court Clinics in Massachusetts for a brief time, Dr. Miller returned to the FBOP as a Sex Offender Program Psychologist at FMC Devens. In 2018, he left to become the Statewide Director of the Mental Illness/Problematic Sexual Behavior program in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2020, Dr. Miller relocated to Illinois to work as Director of the Behavioral Management Unit at Joliet Treatment Center, then promoted to be Mental Health Services Director at Stateville Northern Reception and Classification Center. Missing the challenges of forensic assessment, he returned to the FBOP as a Forensics Unit Psychologist at MCC Chicago in 2022. His interests include

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personality disorders, malingering, general and sexual violence risk, stalking, diagnosis, and competency restoration. Dr. Miller is licensed in Illinois.

Weronika Nowak, Psy.D. (Staff Psychologist)

Dr. Nowak graduated from Midwestern University in 2022, with a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology. While attending graduate school, she completed practicum training at a juvenile detention facility writing psychological evaluations for the courts and provided therapy at an inpatient drug treatment facility. Additionally, she completed a practicum externship at MCC Chicago. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. During her internship, she completed rotations in Forensic evaluations and the Bureau's Step Down program. After completing a FBOP internship, Dr. Nowak returned to MCC Chicago as a staff psychologist. Her interests include diagnosis, severe and persistent mental illness, personality disorders, and substance use disorders. Her personal interests include hiking with her dog and travelling. Dr. Nowak is licensed in Indiana.

Surrounding Area and Local Points of Interest



MCC Chicago is located in “The Loop,” the heart of downtown Chicago. The location of this facility is unique for a correctional facility and offers a wide range of opportunities. Chicago is known as the “Second City” and offers a cultural experience which is unparalleled by other locations. Chicago has a world championship



Women's National Basketball Association team, two Major League Baseball teams, a National Football League team, National Hockey League team, a National Basketball Association team, two nationally acclaimed soccer teams, and an international raceway. For those desiring an intellectually enriching experience, the city features numerous nationally acclaimed museums including the Art Institute, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium, Chicago Cultural Center, and numerous other acclaimed

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museums and experiences of culture including the Chicago Pride Parade. Adjacent to The Loop is the Chicago lakefront. This is a protected area of land along Lake Michigan stretching 18.5 miles and provides access to the water, beaches, sailing, parks, jogging and biking trails, and areas of quiet contemplation to enjoy nature. For those in the city who enjoy an active lifestyle, access to the lakefront is considered an invaluable experience which can be enjoyed every day.

As you might imagine, a city the size of Chicago has many neighborhoods which offer a wide range of cultural experiences. The variety of dining, nightlife, ethnic cohorts, religious and social diversity, and other cultural opportunities associated with the dynamic variety of neighborhoods means anyone can find a home in this great city.

Public transportation makes navigating this city easy and convenient, bringing all of these cultural opportunities to anyone who calls this city home. For those who prefer activities found in



areas of less population

density, Chicago offers easy access to these areas as well.

Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan are all located close to this city. It is common for residents to take day trips to these areas to enjoy camping, watersports on the Great Lakes, and to enjoy the cultural experiences of the states adjacent to Illinois.

While most students prefer to live in the city for access and exposure to the cultural experiences, some students prefer a more suburban lifestyle. Chicago has an amazing transit system of buses and railways which extend conveniently to the suburbs. This is particularly appealing to individuals who have families and wish to have access to the acclaimed schools found in some of the suburbs. Many of the suburbs also offer events several times per year which draw thousands from areas near and far.

Career Opportunities at the Federal Bureau of Prisons

The FBOP has relied on the Psychology Doctoral Internship Program to recruit a large proportion of entry-level clinical and counseling psychologists needed to meet our staffing needs. Many of the psychologists currently employed by the FBOP began their careers after completing their FBOP internship. While we do not promise jobs to those who are accepted into the internship program, we see benefits in hiring people who have already proven themselves to

be competent practitioners in correctional environments. Therefore, we often look to our intern classes when making employment offers.

Newly selected staff generally start at the GS-11 level, and upon successful completion of their first year, psychologists are automatically upgraded to the GS-12 level (current salary ranges can be found on the [Office of Personnel Management \(OPM\) website](#)). Salaries are somewhat higher in geographical areas with higher costs of living. Further upgrades to the GS-13 and GS-14 levels are possible with increases in clinical and administrative responsibilities. Student loan repayment opportunities are available at most facilities.

Psychologists enjoy a great deal of professional autonomy in the FBOP as the main providers of mental health services, and there are numerous opportunities to advance your career. The FBOP values continuing education of psychologists. Many psychologists attend seminars, workshops, and/or national conventions. Funding for outside training may be available and varies from year to year based on the federal budget. Psychologists have the opportunity to choose the part of the country (given the availability of positions) and the type of facility (high, medium, low, or minimum security) in which they wish to work. FBOP psychologists may also engage in outside employment, such as private practice or teaching.

As permanent federal employees, all psychologists are covered by the Federal Employee Retirement System, a pension plan which includes several attractive options for tax-deferred savings similar to a 401(k) plan. FBOP employees may retire after 20 years, provided they have reached the age of 50, and receive a full pension. The FBOP is an equal opportunity employer.

How to Apply

The application for all FBOP psychology internships is a three-step process, and you can reference [this helpful one-page guide](#) of the process and the associated timeline on the [FBOP Internship web page](#).

An in-person interview offers a snapshot of the unique nature of a correctional setting. The FBOP has received positive feedback from applicants regarding the in-person interview format, as it provides applicants with the opportunity to better assess their compatibility with the correctional environment, culture, and the multidisciplinary treatment approach. Applicants also expressed appreciation for being able to meet potential colleagues in person and the benefits of seeing the nuances of individual institutions. MCC Chicago also recognizes that an in-person

interview may not always present as an option for all applicants. To meet Human Resources requirements, at least one FBOP interview must be conducted in-person. If an applicant has additional FBOP interviews, these may be conducted virtually or in-person depending on the applicant's preference and feasibility. MCC Chicago utilizes a structured interview process, standardized interview questions, and a consistent candidate evaluation rubric to ensure an equitable evaluation of all applicants regardless of interview type.

Eligibility Requirements

The psychology internship program at MCC Chicago is open to doctoral students enrolled in APA-accredited clinical and counseling psychology degree programs. Applicants must have completed three years of doctoral training and have successfully proposed their dissertation.

Intern selection is based largely on breadth and quality of clinical experience, demonstrated academic achievement and consistency of interests with the training goals of the program, personal integrity, and maturity. Selections and the offer of positions at each site are made in strict accordance with the policies of APPIC's Internship Matching Program. MCC Chicago agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at these training facilities will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

Applicants for the FBOP's internship positions should be aware they are applying for a position in a federal law enforcement agency. Therefore, selection entails not only demonstration of exceptional qualifications as an advanced graduate student and psychologist in training, but also suitability for work in a position of public trust. FBOP employees, including psychology interns, are held to a high standard of personal conduct and responsibility, and are expected to be law-abiding citizens who can serve as strong role models for the incarcerated population. Applicants must also be US citizens who have lived in the US for the past three out of five years. Additionally, please note that all individuals residing in the immediate household of the applicant must be residing in the U.S. legally.

Applicants should understand that the FBOP is also bound by the specifications of the Pathways Program. The Pathways Program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore federal careers while still in school. While the Pathways Program is a specific process for verifying eligibility for the Doctoral Intern position, the application process is totally separate

from the APPIC process and procedures. Accordingly, applicants must submit an application through the USAJobs website to verify eligibility for temporary federal employment (internship). You will receive additional information on the USAJobs application process after your APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI) online application has been reviewed.

Application Process and Deadlines

Outlined below is the standard FBOP internship application process and timeline that applies to all FBOP sites. Some sites have additional requirements for their applications, so please be sure to read this section carefully for each FBOP site you are interested in to ensure you meet the requirements of individual internship sites.

1. November 1: AAPI

- a. Submit your AAPI online application on the APPIC website for each FBOP site that you're interested in. Applications are reviewed separately by each site, so it is important that you apply individually to each site of interest and check for any additional application requirements for each site.
- b. Be sure to include:
 - A copy of your vitae
 - Graduate transcripts
 - 3 letters of reference
 - **Additional Requirement:** In addition to the AAPI online application, our site requires the submission of a writing sample. This should be either a comprehensive assessment report or a comprehensive case conceptualization. We recommend prospective interns submit examples of work which highlight *their* writing style and conceptualization skills. We do *not* recommend academic writing activities or reports based heavily on templates provided to students during practicum as these do not highlight the abilities of the prospective intern.

- c. All AAPI application materials must be submitted online by 11:59pm on November 1st.

2. Mid-November: USAJobs

- a. Upon AAPI review, the sites that would like to interview you will send you an email with an invitation and instructions for applying on USAJobs.
- b. Please read the USAJobs application carefully to ensure you understand all requirements for applying. We see qualified candidates removed from the process every year for not completing this step of the process accurately. To address this, we have created a USAJobs reference guide that details each step of the process, provides samples of required documents, and addresses common errors to help you complete this process successfully. This reference guide will be attached to the email you receive from the internship sites, and we strongly encourage you to use it as you complete and submit your USAJobs application.
- c. Submit all required documentation, including:
 1. Resume
 - In order to receive credit for experience contained in an uploaded resume, your employment history must be documented in month/year (MM/YYYY) format, reflecting starting date and ending date and include the number of hours worked per week. Failure to follow this format may result in disqualification.
 - We recommend using the resume builder within USAJobs to ensure all information is captured accurately.
 2. Transcript verifying current enrollment in a doctoral program
 - Your transcript must include the School Name, Student Name, Degree and Date Awarded. You can use either an unofficial or official copy from the Office of the Registrar.
 - **Please note:** If the transcript you are uploading does not **explicitly state that you are currently enrolled** in your doctoral program,

you should upload an additional document that verifies current enrollment. This may be a Current Enrollment Verification Certificate, statement of current enrollment or acceptance letter.

3. Evidence that you are registered for the Match

- This could be in the form of one of the following:
 - A copy of your APPIC Match purchase receipt
 - A copy of the email receipt of the APPIC application e-submission
 - A letter from your Director of Clinical Training stating that you have completed the AAPI and are registered for the APPIC Match

- d. During the USAJobs application process, applicants must respond to a series of assessment questions about their experience. Your responses determine category placement (e.g., Best Qualified, Highly Qualified, Qualified).
- e. After closure of the USAJobs application, only applicants that are assessed as qualified, and included in the Best Qualified category, will be considered for an interview. Please note that all candidates (those being asked to interview and those no longer being considered) will receive a Notification of Results by December 15. Therefore, even if you have applied to numerous FBOP internship sites using the AAPI online, category placement and assessment of eligibility through the USAJobs application process plays a vital role in the certification of an applicant to one or all sites.

3. December-January: Interviews

- a. In early December, Internship Program Coordinators from each applicable internship site will contact eligible applicants to schedule an interview. Once invited to interview, applicants are asked to fill out a National Crime Information Center form and a form agreeing to a credit check.

b. Interviews consist of:

- The FBOP's Core Values Assessment (CVA), which is used to determine if new FBOP employees possess the core values and behaviors required for success at FBOP
- Integrity interview, which addresses issues of personal conduct
- Panel interview, during which you will be asked to respond to a number of scenarios that could arise in a correctional facility
- Subject matter expert interview
- Opportunity for discussion with current psychology externs regarding clinical experiences and Department culture.

c. If applying to more than one FBOP internship site, applicants only need to complete the CVA and security clearance procedures one time, as results can be shared with other FBOP sites for convenience.

Additional Information

Offers of internship positions resulting from the computer match are strictly contingent upon satisfactory completion of the background investigation process. For individuals selected through the matching process, a field investigation will follow to verify the information provided in interviews and required forms is accurate. During the background investigation, you will be required to disclose any medical or mental health diagnoses and treatment. Additionally, the FBOP is a drug free workplace, which includes recreational or medicinal marijuana use. Failure to complete this process or a finding that an applicant is outside the guidelines for employment in a sensitive position would preclude participation in the internship program. Once hired, interns must comply with the FBOP's Program Statement on Standards of Employee Conduct. This information is not intended to discourage applications, but to ensure applicants are aware of the additional federal requirements that will be imposed should they wish to pursue a FBOP Internship position.

Contact Information

We are excited about our internship program and appreciate your interest. All questions or concerns should be directed to the Internship Program Coordinator, Bianca Vigil, Psy.D. You may send your inquiries to b2vigil@bop.gov or call (312) 322-0567 x1581.

Appendix

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Program tables updated: 05/7/2024

Program Disclosures

Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution's affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented: N/A	

Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

Applications are accepted from students enrolled in APA accredited doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology. To be internship eligible, students must have successfully completed at least three years of graduate school, and all doctoral course work, other than the dissertation, by the beginning of the internship. There are no minimum requirements regarding assessment and intervention hours. Prior work experience in a correctional setting is not required, but training and experiences indicative of appropriate interest are important considerations in selections. The FBOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

In addition to demonstrating excellence in scholarship, successful applicants demonstrate experience or interest in corrections, crisis management, and forensic psychology. MCC Chicago is both a male and female correctional facility that maintains a population of approximately 700 incarcerated individuals from all security levels.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours: ☒ N ☐ Y Amount:

Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours: ☒ N ☐ Y Amount:

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

During the selection process, applicants must satisfactorily pass a security clearance procedure that includes an interview, a background investigation, and a drug test. The dissertation must be successfully proposed at the time the APPIC application is submitted. Applicants must first go through the USAJobs.gov application process for a psychology intern as a qualification step to be selected for an interview.

*Due to the nature of the FBOP's hiring process, you will need to complete an in-person Core Values Assessment and a pre-employment integrity interview. A psychology-related interview will be conducted by MCC Chicago Psychologists.

If matched with a FBOP internship site, you will be considered an essential worker and will report daily to the institution.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$66,942	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	N/A	
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
If access to medical insurance is provided:		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
Coverage of family member(s) available?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
Coverage of legally married partner available?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
Coverage of domestic partner available?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	4 hrs every 2 weeks (104 total hours annually)	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	4 hrs every 2 weeks (104 total hours annually)	
In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
Other benefits (please describe):		
Interns receive paid federal holidays, liability coverage for on-site professional activities, and can choose from a variety of health insurance plans.		

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table.

Initial Post-Internship Positions

	2020-2023	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	0	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	PD	EP
Community mental health center	0	0
Federally qualified health center	0	0
Independent primary care facility/clinic	0	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	0	0
Military health center	0	0
Academic health center	0	0
Other medical center or hospital	0	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	0
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	0
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Sample Didactic Schedule

PRESENTER	TITLE/TOPIC	DATE
Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Introduction to Correctional Techniques (ICT) Phase I	08-13-2024
Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Introduction to Correctional Techniques (ICT) Phase I	08-20-2024
Dr. Conlon, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Intake Screenings/R&D Screenings/PSIQ Reviews	08-27-2024
Dr. Nowak, Psy.D.	BEMR training	08-29-2024
Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Suicide Risk Assessment	09-03-2024
Dr. Greenstein, Psy.D.	Clinical Interviewing Techniques	09-10-2024
Central Office Psychology Services Branch – Dr. Houseman, Psy.D. & Dr. Wood, Psy.D.	National VTC on Suicide Prevention: Lessons Learned	09-19-2024
Dr. Abdelaal, Psy.D. & Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Case Law Presentation #1	09-24-2024
Dr. Greenstein, Psy.D.	Advanced Group Therapy	10-01-2024
Dr. Osborn, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Book Discussion Series #1: The Gift of Fear	10-08-2024
Central Office Psychology Services Branch – Dr. Jones, Psy.D., Dr. Lada, Psy.D., & Dr. Carter, Psy.D.	National VTC on Inappropriate Sexual Behaviors and Clinical Perspectives	10-15-2024
Central Office Psychology Services Branch	Internship Conference	10-22-2024
Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D.	Mental Status Examinations	10-29-2024

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Dr. Conlon, Psy.D.	Assessment of Cognitive Functioning	11-05-2024
Dr. Miller, Ph.D.	Report Writing	11-12-2024
Southeast Regional Mental Health Pharmacist – Katrina Cable, RPh	Psychopharmacology in Corrections	11-19-2024
Dr. Schenk, Ph.D. & Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Forensic Series: Assessment of Competency	11-26-2024
Dr. Thomas, Psy.D.	FTC Information Session	12-03-2024
Dr. Abdelaal, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Case Law Presentation #2	12-10-2024
Dr. Osborn, Psy.D.	Working with Individuals with Borderline PD	12-17-2024
Holiday	No Didactic	12-24-2024
Holiday	No Didactic	12-31-2024
Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Treatment of PTSD in a Correctional Setting	01-07-2025
Dr. Miller, Ph.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Book Discussion Series #2: Without Conscience	01-14-2025
Central Office Psychology Services Branch	National VTC on Caring Justice: Infusing a Compassionate and Resilience Informed Practice for Aging People in Corrections	01-21-2025
W. Ware & K. Temblay, Probation and Pretrial Services Office	Collaboration and Continuity of Care by the US Courts Pretrial and Probation Team	01-28-2025
Dr. Greenstein, Psy.D.	Trauma and Addictions	02-04-2025
Dr. Vigil, Psy.D., & Dr. Nowak, Psy.D.	Suicide Watch	02-11-2025
Central Office Psychology Services Branch	PSB Didactic: Overview of the Federal Judicial System: Ethics, Guidelines, and Forensic Psychology in the FBOP	02-18-2025
Central Office Psychology Services Branch, Dr. Ezell, Ph.D.	Restorative Justice – Part 2	02-22-2025

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Dr. Nowak, Psy.D.	First Step Act (FSA)	02-25-2025
Dr. Greenstein, Psy.D.	Book Discussion Series #3: Games Criminals Play	03-04-2025
Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D.	Forensic Assessment Series: Response Style	03-11-2025
Dr. Abdelaal, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Case Law #3	03-18-2025
Dr. Gabel, Ph.D., NCR Psychology Administrator	NCR Internship Conference	03-25-2025
Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Restricted/Special Housing Units	04-01-2025
Dr. Novotny & Dr. Weber, FCI Greenville	Sex Offender Treatment Programs	04-08-2025
Dr. Gomory, Ph.D., FCI Pekin	National VTC on the First Step Act: Changes and Advancements	04-15-2025
Dr. Conlon, Psy.D.	Assessment of Malingering	04-22-2025
Dr. Watkins, Ph.D. & Dr. Miller, Ph.D.	Sex Offenders: Paraphilic Disorders and Risk Assessment	04-29-2025
Central Office Psychology Services Branch	Using the Five Ps Model of Case Formulation for Adults in Custody	05-01-2025
Dr. Vigil, Psy.D., Intern	Intern Dissertation Presentation	05-06-2025
Central Office Psychology Services Branch	National VTC on Mental Health Treatment Programs	05-08-2025
Dr. Abdelaal, Psy.D. & Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Case Law #4	05-13-2025
Dr. Britton, Psy.D.	FCI Thomson: recent mission changes and opportunities	05-20-2025
Drs. Watkins, Ph.D. & Szyhowski, Psy.D.	Preparing for Licensure/EPPP, Student Loan Repayment, Board Certification	05-27-2025
Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Book Discussion Series #4: Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists, & Other Sex Offenders	06-03-2025

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Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D.	Working Effectively Across Disciplines	06-10-2025
DAPC or Dr. Szyhowski, Psy.D.	Medication-Assisted Treatment	06-17-2025
Dr. Nowak, Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Role of Staff Psychologist in the FBOP	06-24-2025
Dr. Szyhowski Psy.D. & Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Operational and Program Review	07-01-2025
Central Office Psychology Services	National VTC on Autism Spectrum Disorder in Correctional Environments	07-08-2025
Dr. Watkins, Ph.D.	Video: Expert Testimony and the Insanity Defense	07-15-2025
Central Office Psychology Services	National VTC on Clinical Supervision	07-22-2025
Dr. Vigil, Psy.D.	Correctional Support Team	07-29-2025
Drs. Miller, Ph.D., Abdelaal, Psy.D., and Vigil, Psy.D.	Panel Discussion: Career Development	08-05-2025

References

- Boothby, J. L., & Clements, C. B. (2000). A national survey of correctional psychologists. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 27, 716-732.
- Magaletta, P.R., & Boothby, J. (2003). Correctional mental health professionals. In T.J. Fagan & R. K. Ax (Eds.) *Correctional Mental Health Handbook* (pp.21-38). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
- Magaletta, P. R., Patry, M. W., & Norcross, J.C. (2012). Who is training behind the wall? Twenty-five years of psychology interns in corrections. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 39, 1403-1418.