

PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP

MDC LOS ANGELES
2025-2026

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— Bianca Bullock, Doctoral Intern



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Introduction

The Psychology Services Department at Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Los Angeles 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 MDC Los Angeles specifically. The brochure 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 MDC Los Angeles. 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 three 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.

Incarcerated individuals convicted of the most serious offenses and those whose institutional adjustment is poor are housed in high security settings, or penitentiaries. Most 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, they are individuals, each with his or her (about seven percent are women) own needs and abilities. Many 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., 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 the incarcerated individuals in our care.

Psychology Services at MDC Los Angeles

The MDC Los Angeles Psychology Internship Program has been accredited by the APA since 1994. The mission of MDC Los Angeles is to serve as a holding facility for individuals arrested for violation of federal laws awaiting court actions. In essence, it is a federal jail with a holding capacity of approximately 1,000 incarcerated individuals, housing both males and females. Approximately 100 of the incarcerated individuals have already been sentenced and are serving their time at MDC Los Angeles. The population presents various racial, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. There is also a wide range of mental health concerns including affective and adjustment disorders, substance use disorders, personality disorders, psychosis and dementia.

Currently, MDC Los Angeles has five full-time, licensed Psychologists, one full-time Psychologist who is license eligible, and one Treatment Specialist. Psychology Services is centralized within the institution, which contributes to a professional atmosphere and a close working relationship with colleagues. A full-time administrative assistant provides the staff with clerical support. A large conference room is available for meetings, seminars, and group treatment. Each staff member and intern have a workstation, to include a personal computer.

The services provided by the Psychology Services Department at MDC Los Angeles are primarily brief in nature. They include psychological screenings of newly admitted incarcerated individuals, brief treatment of adjustment symptoms, crisis intervention, and suicide risk assessment and prevention. We also conduct forensic evaluations for the federal courts, psychological assessment for other referral questions, substance abuse treatment, and consultation with staff regarding population management concerns and personal issues. Some opportunities exist to provide brief and long-term treatment in individual and group formats. The various specialty programs offered at MDC Los Angeles are briefly summarized below:

Forensic Program – The Psychology Services Department at MDC Los Angeles is designated as one of the Forensic Study Centers in the FBOP. As a Study Center, the Department conducts court-ordered evaluations with incarcerated individuals from all over the country to assess competency to stand trial, insanity during the commission of an offense, and other psychological evaluations as ordered by a federal court. Court testimony is sometimes required.

Drug Abuse Treatment Program – The Drug Abuse Treatment Program at MDC Los Angeles consists of drug education groups and nonresidential drug treatment. Groups begin with an educational component, followed by a more process-oriented phase. In the latter phase, participants are encouraged to examine the role substance abuse played in their lives. Consistent with current community treatment approaches, when appropriate, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is provided as a component of treatment.

Suicide Prevention Program – The Suicide Prevention Program entails identification of, and intervention with, incarcerated individuals who are at risk for suicide. The procedures include screening of incoming incarcerated individuals for suicide risk, ongoing staff training for identification of incarcerated individuals at risk for suicide, special housing to prevent self-harm

behavior, and a training program for peer companions to provide 24-hour observation of individuals identified as high risk for suicide.

Mental Health Program – The Mental Health Program concentrates on those placed on the Recovery, Independence, and Strength for Everyone (RISE) Unit. These individuals typically need closer observation than those in the general population. Incarcerated individuals on the RISE Unit are encouraged to participate in evidence-based treatment groups on their housing unit.

Employee Assistance Program – This program allows staff members experiencing personal or family mental health problems to obtain confidential treatment from a psychologist on staff or through referral to an appropriate community practitioner.



Psychology Internship at MDC Los Angeles

Program Aim, Competencies, and Outcomes

The aim of the Doctoral Psychology Internship Program at MDC Los Angeles 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 training 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 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, the majority of our interns are hired as Staff Psychologists within the FBOP shortly after graduation. 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. Ordinarily, interns are not permitted to work beyond normal operating hours (7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) apart from clinical or institutional emergencies. The internship year begins in August and ends the following August. 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

The MDC Los Angeles Internship Program consists of three main rotations each covering a period of approximately four months. The rotations include Correctional Psychology, Forensic Evaluation, and Serious Mental Health. In addition to the individual rotations, each intern will be involved in a few activities that will continue over the course of the year. The general intern program requirements, with the estimated time spent engaged in the activities each week and over the course of the year, are listed below.

1. One long-term therapy case will be maintained. Audio/video recordings will be made of these sessions for review in individual and group supervision. Group supervision of individual therapy cases is held weekly for one and one-half hour.
2. Based on institutional needs, Psychology Interns will complete initial intakes for the Cadre Unit. This consists of interviewing, reviewing records, making appropriate recommendations, and completing an intake summary report. Time spent engaged in this activity varies with the number of intakes designated per week, as well as the length of time spent on documentation and providing feedback to unit team staff.
3. Interns will respond to incarcerated individual's written requests (also known as a "cop-out") communicating a need for mental health services. It is anticipated that the Psychology Intern will respond to several written requests each week.
4. Interns will be responsible for assisting in the training of incarcerated individuals who have been selected as peer companions in our Inmate Companion Program. These trainings take place regularly throughout the year.
5. Each intern is responsible for developing and implementing several workshops or training sessions for staff during the year. One of these trainings will be conducted during the institution's Annual Training and will cover the topic of diversity. Interns are also expected to present their dissertation topic to the Psychology Services Department staff and to create one additional diversity-informed didactic on a topic of their choice before the end of the year.
6. Extensive individual and group supervision hours are scheduled weekly. Individual supervision is a minimum of two hours per week, provided by the primary rotation supervisor(s). In addition to group supervision of individual therapy cases, there will be one and one-half hours monthly devoted to process-oriented supervision with Dr. Gonzalez, and approximately a one-half hour of daily Psychology Services Department rounds, during which interns communicate about critical cases, and receive supervision from all Psychology Services staff on important issues.

CORRECTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Supervisor: Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., Ph.D.

The correctional psychology rotation focuses primarily on providing general mental health services. Most of the work consists of screening and assessing the needs of the

incarcerated individuals, making referrals for psychiatric consultation, conducting brief psychotherapy, providing case management, responding to requests for services, consulting with correctional and medical staff, and participation in the Admissions and Orientation Program for incarcerated individuals.

Rotation Content Areas

Psychology Services Inmate Questionnaire (PSIQ) – Each incarcerated individual completes the PSIQ (a screening questionnaire) upon arrival to the institution. These forms are forwarded to Psychology Services and reviewed for pertinent information. Each person who reports a history of mental health treatment, a history of sexual assault victimization or perpetration while incarcerated, past or present suicidal thoughts, or current mental health concerns will be seen. Additionally, any person who requests to be seen by the Psychology Services Department, regardless of previous history, will be provided contact. Psychology Services staff will conduct an assessment and provide services based on the individual's needs. It is anticipated that approximately 15-20 screenings will be conducted each week by the Psychology Intern.

Crisis Intervention – Psychology Services staff are often called to respond to crisis situations. Incarcerated individuals often experience acute personal problems that require immediate attention, such as receiving a long sentence, divorce, death of a family member, or notification of HIV/AIDS status. In addition, crisis intervention may be needed for suicidal, psychotic, or disruptive individuals. The Correctional Psychology Intern will be involved in responding to calls throughout the institution and will conduct crisis intervention with those in the general population for a variety of presenting problems.

Suicide Risk Assessment – A suicide risk assessment is conducted with any individual when suicidality is a potential concern. This often occurs with newly arriving incarcerated individuals, individuals for whom this is their first incarceration, or individuals with recent suicide attempts in the community or at another facility. Psychology Services staff will evaluate the risk potential of the individual and if suicide potential is present, they may be transferred to the RISE Unit, or placed on formal suicide watch.

Brief Psychotherapy – Because the population at MDC Los Angeles is constantly in flux, it is difficult to provide on-going psychotherapy. The goal for Psychology Services is to screen most incarcerated individuals for psychological disorders and conduct appropriate follow-up so they can remain stable while at this institution. Psychology Interns acquire a caseload from screening forms, written requests, and crisis calls. These individuals will likely require weekly follow-up until stabilization is achieved. If an individual appears to require long-term follow-up to maintain stability, his/her care level will be reassessed, and the case would be reassigned to the mental health intern.

Evaluations for Risk of Abusiveness/Victimization – Incarcerated individuals who have a sexual abuse history, either as the victim or perpetrator, may require additional services from Psychology Services to maintain their stability and the safety of others. A screening is conducted with each person with this history to aid in making appropriate housing assignments, and to provide necessary follow-up services related to their abuse histories.

Special Housing Unit (SHU) – The institution's Special Housing Unit (SHU) houses those who have been placed on a closely monitored, locked-cell status due to administrative or disciplinary issues. This includes individuals who have exhibited significantly disruptive behavior in the general population or have security concerns. Incarcerated individuals housed on this unit for longer than thirty days receive a formal monthly review by Psychology Services. The Correctional Psychology Intern will assist in completing these monthly interviews. They will also be involved in conducting protective custody evaluations, extended restrictive housing evaluations, and responding to general mental health needs of those on this unit.

Psychiatric Consultation – Psychology Services staff are frequently called upon by medical staff to determine need for psychiatric medications. The intern on this rotation will evaluate each individual and will make formal referrals in situations where behavioral interventions alone are not sufficient to achieve mental stability.

FORENSIC EVALUATION

Supervisor: Tiffany Smith, Psy.D.

In the forensic evaluation rotation, the intern participates in conducting court-ordered psychological evaluations with respect to the legal issues of competency to stand trial, insanity during the commission of an offense, and other evaluation questions posed by the court. The rotation is a four-month supervised experience that allows the Psychology Intern to develop skills and an in-depth understanding in the areas of forensic evaluation procedures, federal criminal law, ethics in the practice of forensic psychology, and psychological assessment, including diagnostic interviews, administration of various testing instruments, and forensic psychological report writing.

The intern's experience on the forensic rotation will include: direct observation of the supervisor conducting forensic evaluations; conducting forensic diagnostic interviews under direct supervision; learning the administration of unfamiliar tests; administration and interpretation of test batteries; conversing with court personnel concerning forensic cases; documentation of forensic evaluations; forensic report writing; as well as crisis intervention and suicide assessment and prevention with various emergencies that arise. Each intern will also participate in a mock trial/competency hearing at the end of their rotation, during which the intern will be expected to testify on a case that they were assigned while on the forensic rotation.

Forensic Evaluation – The first month of the rotation involves becoming acquainted with the relevant forensic evaluation literature, direct observation of the process of conducting forensic assessments, and supervised experience in the administration of psychological tests. The remainder of the rotation involves conducting complete forensic assessments under direct supervision, including the administration of psychological tests, diagnostic interviews, contact with court personnel for information, and forensic report writing. During this rotation, time will also be spent reviewing the literature or required reading for the rotation; familiarizing oneself with relevant case law; and engaging in miscellaneous duties, such as case management and documentation, case formulation, and forensic intake screenings.

Assessment – The use of different objective tests, gathering of personal history, and reviewing various legal and medical records is a large portion of the forensic assessment process. Each week the intern will review assessment methods and review testing materials to apply to the forensic assessment process. The number of complete testing batteries, and variety of tests administered, depends on the intern's level of pre-requisite assessment experience, as well as the cases available during the rotation. Considerable effort is made to expose interns to a wide variety of assessment measures, as well as varying forensic questions.

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS ROTATION

Supervisor: Samantha Shelton, Psy.D.

The serious mental illness rotation deals primarily with managing and supporting this population through the Recovery, Independence, and Strength for Everyone (RISE) program. The RISE Unit serves as a placement for individuals diagnosed with mental disorders, severe personality disorders, or medical conditions that require greater control, supervision, or monitoring than afforded on a general housing unit. This unit also serves to house incarcerated individuals on formal suicide precautions status. The primary goal for individuals placed on this unit is preparation for a successful transition into general population housing and stabilization (i.e., psychiatric, medical, behavioral).

Responsibilities on this rotation will require the use of clinical interviewing skills to conduct initial evaluations and suicide risk assessments. Interns will also be involved in crisis intervention, brief psychotherapy, group therapy, case management, psychiatric and staff consultation.

Rotation Content Areas

Initial Evaluations – An evaluation will be performed on each individual who is placed on the RISE Unit. The evaluation can include a clinical interview, a mental status exam, a review of the background information, and behavioral observations. The goal is to identify individuals with mental illness and maximize treatment potential, while attempting to maintain the safety of others.

Suicide Watches – Individuals placed on a formal suicide watch are housed in one of the four cells designated for suicide prevention on the RISE Unit. The intern will be responsible for conducting suicide watch contacts under live supervision of a licensed Psychologist unless the suicide watch was initiated by another intern. Individuals on suicide watch status will be managed according to the procedures outlined under the suicide prevention watch section of existing policies, and will be seen for treatment on a daily basis. Transfer to the RISE Unit, general population, or another unit will occur once the risk potential has substantially diminished. If warranted, the incarcerated individual will receive an increased care level to ensure ongoing follow-up is provided once removed from suicide watch precautions.

Crisis Intervention – Psychology Services staff will often be called upon to assist in a difficult situation or for guidance in handling a mentally ill individual on the RISE Unit. The intern will be responsible for handling crisis situations on this unit. Similar to crisis intervention on the correctional psychology rotation, these crisis situations can span a range of presenting problems; however, while on this rotation the intern will adapt their crisis intervention skills to the unique needs of the mentally ill.

Brief Psychotherapy – The occurrence of brief psychotherapy depends on the needs of the incarcerated individual and length of his/her stay at the institution. However, those with higher care levels will be seen routinely for brief therapy and monitoring of mental status. The intern's brief therapy caseload will consist of several cases from the RISE Unit, as well as those in the general population who have been identified as having increased mental health needs. Individual brief counseling sessions will be documented, and the progress reviewed during individual supervision.

Group Therapy – The intern on this rotation will be responsible for running at least three treatment groups during the rotation. Group participants include persons with severe mental illness, persons completing their sentence and preparing for reentry into the community, and female offenders. All groups must be chosen from the First Step Act Approved Programs Guide but can be tailored to the intern's interest and the needs of the participants at that time. Additionally, while on this rotation the intern is expected to manage the milieu on the RISE Unit. Time permitting, while on this rotation, interns will also have the opportunity to facilitate another group of clinical interest and/or observe various drug treatment groups conducted by our drug treatment staff.

Case Management – Many circumstances require a case management approach, requiring the utilization of the interns' communication and consultation skills. The intern will be expected to present potential candidates for the RISE Unit during daily Department rounds and provide updates to the Psychology Services Department regarding any other relevant cases on

that unit. Additionally, the intern will be expected to communicate regularly with the unit team, medical, and custody staff who have responsibility for managing these mentally ill offenders.

Didactic Training

Didactic presentations are scheduled weekly, for approximately 1.5 hours each. They cover a variety of topics including prison culture, ethics in corrections, assessment, forensic issues, suicide prevention, sexual abuse prevention/intervention, evidenced based approaches to treatment, assessment and treatment of sex offenders, and professional and career development.

Complimenting the aforementioned didactics, interns and Psychology Services staff participate in a forensic seminar (approximately monthly), in which important case law, frequently used assessment measures, and various forensic issues are discussed.

Lastly, as scheduling permits, MDC Los Angeles will host interns from Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Terminal Island and Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Victorville for both virtual and in-person shared didactics. In turn, the interns at MDC Los Angeles will also visit FCI Terminal Island and FCC Victorville for virtual and in-person didactics.

A Day in the Life of a MDC Los Angeles 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 the 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, below is a sample of what a day could look like for our interns.

Time	Activity
7:00 am	Arrive to work and catch up on emails
7:30 am	Rotation specific duties: GP: Respond to incarcerated individuals’ concerns Forensic: Interviewing; psychological testing; records review Mental Health: Individual/group therapy
10:30 am	Individual supervision
11:30 am	Departmental clinical rounds
12:00 pm	Group supervision
1:00 pm	Didactic
2:00 pm	Clinical documentation
3:00 pm	Leave work with fellow interns

Supervision

MDC Los Angeles 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.

Our 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 (IPC) 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 approximately every four months and coincides with an intern completing their current rotation (i.e., Correctional Psychology, Forensic Evaluation, Serious Mental Illness). 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 MDC Los Angeles 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 MDC Los Angeles 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 IPC 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. Interns complete evaluations of the internship program and supervisors after each rotation and at the end of the training year. All of this feedback is shared anonymously and strongly considered when making modifications to the training program.

Members of the Psychology Services Department at MDC Los Angeles 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 MDC Los Angeles 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 \$69,729 (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 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

The MDC Los Angeles Psychology Internship Program has received accreditation by the APA since 1994 and meets all APA criteria for Doctoral Internships in professional Psychology. MDC Los Angeles is also a member APPIC.

Any questions or concerns regarding the accreditation status of the MDC Los Angeles 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 their 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 an 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.

MDC Los Angeles Psychologists

Samantha Shelton, Psy.D. – Chief, Psychology Services

Dr. Shelton received her doctorate in 2000, from the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri. She began her career with the FBOP in 2001, and has served as the Drug Abuse Program Coordinator (DAPC) at FBOP facilities such as, FCC Beaumont (TX) and MDC Los Angeles (CA). She was also the coordinator for the CODE (Challenge, Opportunity, Discipline, and Ethics) program at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) in Victorville, California. Prior to becoming Chief of Psychology Services, Dr. Shelton was a Forensic Psychologist at MDC Los Angeles, and previously served as a supervisor for the forensic rotation. Her professional interests include substance abuse treatment, working with the chronically mentally ill, individuals with personality disorders, and group facilitation.

Seretha Eiland, Psy.D. – Drug Abuse Program Coordinator

Dr. Eiland received her doctorate in 2010, from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, Illinois. She completed her post-doctoral residency at Florida State Hospital with a focus on forensic assessment. Dr. Eiland began her career with the FBOP in 2012, at United States Penitentiary (USP) Marion where she and the staff activated the Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program (RDAP). She continued to serve as a DAPC for the FBOP at Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Duluth, and currently at MDC Los Angeles. Dr. Eiland's professional interests include working with underserved populations, particularly providing responsive treatment, substance abuse treatment, and treatment issues related to reentry. Her theoretical orientation is primarily client-centered; however, she has great appreciation for an integrative approach to treatment.

Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., Ph.D. – Internship Program Coordinator

Dr. Gonzalez earned his doctoral degree from Sam Houston State University, after completing his doctoral internship at FMC Fort Worth. He was subsequently hired as a Staff Psychologist at FCI Morgantown, and he is currently licensed in the state of West Virginia. While at FCI Morgantown, Dr. Gonzalez was a member of the Disturbance Control Team. In 2018, Dr. Gonzalez was hired at FCI Terminal Island and served as the DAPC for one year before being hired as the Internship Program Coordinator. In 2020, Dr. Gonzalez was hired as a Forensic Psychologist at MDC Los Angeles. As a forensic psychologist, Dr. Gonzalez' duties included completing court-ordered evaluations for predominantly and/or mono-lingual Spanish-speaking defendants. Dr. Gonzalez returned to the role of Internship Program Coordinator in 2022. His interests include psychopathy, suicide, forensic assessment, personality assessment, recidivism, and supervision. Other clinical experience includes criminal justice-involved adolescents and adult psychiatric inpatients.

Tiffany Smith, Psy.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Smith received her doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology—Alameda Campus and is licensed in California. Prior to joining the FBOP in 2008, Dr. Smith worked in different city, county, and state correctional facilities, providing psychological services to juveniles and adults. She served on a Board of Directors of a healthcare provider contracted to provide mental health care at Southern California correctional facilities. She also served on a Board of Directors with the Los Angeles Police Department helping to establish and foster involvement between the community, local schools and law enforcement. Her professional interests include media psychology, forensic evaluations, the prevention of violence through threat assessment and management, and first responder mental health, wellness, and suicide prevention. Dr. Smith is an advocate for reducing the stigma of mental illness and suicide. She is actively involved with community organizations addressing suicide prevention, dispelling the stigma of mental health concerns, and developing greater access to, and utilization of, mental health services.

Greta Todd, Ph.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Todd received her doctorate and Master's degree from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in 2008, and is licensed in California. Before joining the FBOP, Dr. Todd spent three years at Coalinga State Hospital providing treatment for sex offender population under Jessica's Law. In 2014, she was hired as a Staff Psychologist at FCC Victorville. In 2016, she promoted to Challenge Coordinator and DAPC at USP Atwater. While at USP Atwater, she served on the Crisis Negotiation Team as the Mental Health Consultant. In 2019, Dr. Todd became the first Restrictive Housing Unit (RU) Psychologist at FCC Florence. After a brief hiatus from the FBOP, Dr. Todd returned to the FBOP as a forensic psychologist at MDC Los Angeles. Dr. Todd also teaches at both the Chicago School of Forensic Psychology and Pepperdine University. She remains active within the American Psychology Association with affiliations within division 12, and committee members within divisions 35, and 41. Dr. Todd's interests include ethics, psychopathology, forensic evaluation, sex offender treatment, and group facilitation.

Emily Morse, Psy.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Morse received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University, and is licensed in the state of California. She has extensive experience providing group and individual treatment for severe mental illness and substance abuse, as well as their interaction. She completed her internship at the MDC Los Angeles. Following post-doctoral training with Harbor-UCLA and at Twin Towers Correctional Facility, she started in the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Staff Psychologist at the Federal Correctional Complex in Victorville, California. In 2022, she became the first Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Psychologist at FCI Terminal Island, where she provided screening as well as group and individual treatment to individuals who are motivated to recover from severe opioid addiction through the use of medication and clinical intervention. She became a Forensic Psychologist at MDC Los Angeles in July 2023.

Her clinical interest areas include severe mental illness, substance use disorders, and forensic evaluation.

Surrounding Area and Local Points of Interest

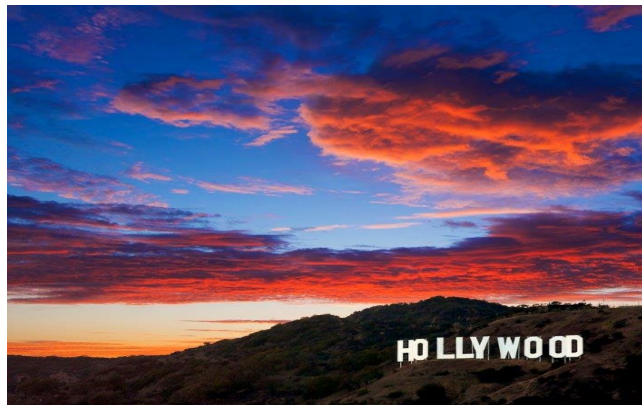
Los Angeles is California's largest city, both in terms of territory and population. The current population is estimated to be approximately 3.5 million people filling 465 square miles. Los Angeles is not a city in the traditional sense of the word; instead, it is a collection of intermingling communities, each contributing their own identity and character.



Los Angeles offers many unique attractions that contribute to its character.

These sights are desirable for both Los Angeles residents and international tourists. From Beverly Hills, best known for the exclusive Rodeo Drive and the luxurious homes, to downtown urban Los Angeles, there is a successful blend of diverse cultures, peppered with distinctive arts, foods, and ways of life.

Los Angeles boasts a mild climate with temperatures averaging 70 degrees. The Pacific Ocean borders the western coast and offers hundreds of miles of beaches. You can swim, surf, snorkel, bicycle, or fish at most of the state's beaches, or you can traverse the trendy boardwalks by foot, skateboard, or in-line skates.



Los Angeles is considered to be one of the nation's major theatrical cities. Presentations range from comedic theater in one of the well-known comedy clubs, to more serious productions on famous stages. Many small theaters throughout the area also present dramas that range from the classical to the contemporary. In addition to live theater, first-run films are available at almost any one of the hundreds of movie theaters.

Los Angeles also provides opportunities for shopping, dining, entertainment, and education. The city and its surrounding communities have many attractions, including Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Farmer's Market, Mann's Chinese Theater, and many more.

The Metropolitan Detention Center is located in downtown Los Angeles within easy walking distance to historic Union Station, colorful Olvera Street, and the extraordinary Chinatown. It is centrally located near the 110, 101, and 5 freeways.

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 to meet our staffing needs. Many of the Psychologists currently employed by the FBOP began their careers after completing a FBOP internship. While jobs are not promised to those who are accepted into the internship program, there are 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. Please refer to the table in the appendix for initial post-internship placements of the previous three MDC Los Angeles intern classes.

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. MDC Los Angeles 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. MDC Los Angeles 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 MDC Los Angeles 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. MDC Los Angeles 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 U.S. citizens who have lived in the U.S. 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
- c. All AAPI application materials must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. 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 (i.e., 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 (NCIC) 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
- 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. For any questions regarding the application procedures, brochure, or any other information pertaining to the internship at MDC Los Angeles, please contact:

Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., Ph.D.
Internship Program Coordinator
Metropolitan Detention Center
535 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 485-0439, Ext. 5243
e4gonzalez@bop.gov

or

Samantha Shelton, Psy.D.
Chief of Psychology Services
Metropolitan Detention Center
535 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 485-0439, Ext. 5181
sshelton@bop.gov

Appendix

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

Program tables updated: May 10, 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

<p>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:</p>
<p>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. Applicants must also have completed a minimum of 400 intervention hours and 100 assessment hours (*exceptions may be made to the assessment hours due to COVID-19 limitations). 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.</p> <p>In addition to demonstrating excellence in scholarship, successful applicants demonstrate experience and interest in corrections, crisis management, and forensic psychology. MDC Los Angeles is a federal jail that houses both male and female incarcerated individuals and maintains a population of approximately 1,000 from varying security levels. Approximately 100 of the incarcerated individuals are sentenced and are serving their time at MDC Los Angeles.</p>
<p>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:</p>
<p>Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours: N <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y Amount: 400 Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours: N <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y Amount: 100</p>
<p>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>*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 MDC Los Angeles Psychologists.</p>

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$69,729	
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	9	
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	1
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	1	0
Psychiatric hospital	0	1
Academic university/department	0	0
Community college or other teaching setting	0	0
Independent research institution	0	0
Correctional facility	0	6
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

Hinkley v United States
Managing the Dual Relationship
Medication-Assisted Treatment
Bias in Corrections
Malingering
Sovereign Citizen Extremists
Religious Services in the FBOP

References

- Boothby, J. L., & Clements, C. B. (2000). A national survey of correctional psychologists. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 27, 716-732.
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- 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.