
Doctoral Psychology Internship Program

Metropolitan Detention Center

Los Angeles, California

Accredited By:
American Psychological Association
Commission on Accreditation
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
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Revised: 07-19-2021

LOS ANGELES

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 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 locales for both LA 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 way 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.

**PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES at the
METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER
LOS ANGELES**

The mission of the Metropolitan Detention Center at Los Angeles (MDC-LA) 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 inmates, housing both males and females. Approximately 100 of the inmates have already been sentenced and are serving their time at MDC-LA. The inmates are of various racial, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds. They also present with a wide range of mental and emotional conditions, including affective and adjustment disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, psychosis and dementia.

Mission Statement and Training Model

The primary mission of Psychology Services within the Bureau of Prisons is to provide appropriate psychological, psycho-educational, and consultative services to inmates and staff. Psychological services within this institution are designed to ensure that every inmate with a documented need and/or interest in psychological treatment has access to a level of care comparable to that available in the community.

The MDC-LA intern training philosophy is consistent with the Practitioner-Scholar model. The program emphasizes the development of psychology interns who actively integrate the science of psychology and evidence-based practices into their clinical interventions and treatment. Intrinsic in the MDC-LA model is the belief that clinical practice should be a reflection of sound findings in the research and science of psychology. Our didactic training sessions and research review seminars are consistent with current developments in the field. Training staff emphasize the use of clinical applications which are based on empirically derived principles and combine theory and experience.

Services and Programs

The services provided by Psychology Services at MDC-LA are primarily brief in nature. They include psychological screenings of newly admitted inmates, 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, drug abuse treatment, and consultation with staff for inmate management concerns and personal issues. Some opportunities exist to provide brief and long-term treatment in individual and group formats.

Special programs administered by Psychology Services:

Forensic Program – Psychology Services at MDC-LA is designated as one of the Forensic Study Centers in the Bureau. As a Study Center, the department conducts court-ordered evaluations on inmates from all over the country to assess competency to stand trial, insanity during the

commission of an offense, and any other psychological evaluation ordered by a federal court. Court testimony is sometimes required.

Drug Abuse Program – The Drug Abuse Program at MDC-LA 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, inmates are encouraged to examine the role substance abuse has played in their lives.

Suicide Prevention Program – The Suicide Prevention Program entails identification of, and intervention with, inmates who are at risk for suicide. The procedures include screening of incoming inmates for suicide risk, ongoing staff training for identification of inmates at risk for suicide, special housing to prevent self-destructive behavior, and a training program for inmate companions to provide 24-hour observation of individuals identified as high risk for suicide.

Mental Health Program – The Mental Health Program concentrates on those inmates placed in the Special Programs Unit. These inmates typically need closer observation than those in the general population. Inmates on the SPU 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.

Staff and Resources

Currently, MDC-LA has five full-time, licensed psychologists, and one full-time psychologist who is license eligible. 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 has an office and personal computer.

Lisa Matthews Hope, Psy.D. – Chief, Psychology Services

Dr. Hope received her doctorate from Pacific University in 2000, and is licensed in California. She completed her doctoral internship at MDC Los Angeles. She worked as a Staff Psychologist and Mental Health Programs Coordinator at MDC Brooklyn until April, 2003. She worked as a Forensic Psychologist at the MDC Los Angeles until 2012, when she assumed the role as Chief. Her interests are in working with chronically mentally ill offenders, suicide prevention, interpersonal approaches to treatment, psychopathy, forensic evaluations, geropsychology, neuropsychology, and crisis support.

Rebecca Delgado, Psy.D. – Internship Program Coordinator

Dr. Delgado received her doctorate from Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology in 2009, and is a licensed psychologist. She completed a BOP doctoral internship at FCI Fort Worth, and during that year also conducted an outplacement at FMC

Carswell. Following internship, she worked as a staff psychologist at MDC Brooklyn until December of 2012. Dr. Delgado's clinical interests include crisis intervention, rapid assessment and diagnosis, forensic evaluations, and treatment with personality disorders and severe mental illness. Her theoretical orientation is primarily cognitive behavioral.

Tiffany Smith, Psy.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Smith received her doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology—Alameda Campus in 2003, and is licensed in California. She has worked in city, county, state, and federal correctional jurisdictions, providing psychological services to male and female, adult and juvenile offenders since 1998. She 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; psychopathy; female offenders, particularly adolescents; and gender-specific treatment.

Ernie Gonzalez, Jr., Ph.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Gonzalez earned his doctoral degree from Sam Houston State University, after completing a 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 DAP Coordinator for one year before being hired as the Internship Program Coordinator. In 2020, Dr. Gonzalez was hired as one of three forensic psychologists at MDC LA, where he works at the present time. His interests include psychopathy, suicide, forensic assessment, personality assessment, recidivism, and supervision. Other clinical experience includes criminal justice-involved adolescents and adult psychiatric inpatients.

Samantha Shelton, Psy.D. – Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Shelton received her doctorate in 2000 from the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri. She began her career with the Bureau of Prisons in 2001 and has served as the DAP Coordinator at federal prisons in Beaumont, Texas, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Los Angeles, California. She was also the coordinator for the CODE (Challenge, Opportunity, Discipline, and Ethics) program at the Federal Correctional Complex in Victorville, California. Currently she is one of three forensic psychologists, at MDC-LA, and supervises the forensic rotation. Her professional interests include substance abuse treatment, working with the chronically mentally ill and 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, 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 Bureau of Prisons in 2012 at USP Marion where she and the staff activated the Residential Drug Abuse Program. She has continued to serve as a DAP Coordinator for the Bureau at FPC Duluth, and currently at MDC-LA. Dr. Eiland's professional interests include working with underserved populations, particularly prostituted and incarcerated women, substance abuse treatment, trauma-based

therapy, and treatment issues related to reentry. Her theoretical orientation is primarily client-centered; however she has great appreciation for an integrative approach to treatment.

**PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM at the
METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER
LOS ANGELES**

Accreditation

The MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program received accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) in 1994. The Internship Program also follows the criteria outlined by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).

Objectives and Philosophy

The training offered by the MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program is designed to provide a well-rounded training experience leading to the development of a clinical generalist. The training objectives are influenced by the mission of the agency and community standards. The aim of the Psychology Internship Training Program is to train entry-level professional psychologists who also function competently in the correctional environment. To accomplish this aim, the program provides training as preparation for professional practice, consolidating the knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired through graduate training. We also stress the development of competence in research; ethical and legal standards; individual and cultural diversity; professional values and attitudes; communication and interpersonal skills; assessment; intervention; supervision; and consultation and interpersonal/interdisciplinary skills. Interns are selected based on their preparation for more intensive work in these areas, their ability to provide psychological services, and their capacity for professional growth.

The MDC-LA Psychology Internship Program is a comprehensive learning experience in a multidisciplinary institutional setting with emphasis in the areas of corrections and forensic work. Interns are exposed to a variety of clinical situations, with different supervisors and a range of client problems. It is an intensive experience, structured to enhance the intern's abilities, aid in the acquisition of new skills, and facilitate autonomy in practice with appropriate consultation.

Benefits

The MDC-LA internship is considered a full-time position and offers a stipend of approximately \$63,052 for the program year. Interns will accrue four hours each of sick and annual leave per pay period. Release time for attending dissertation defense, meetings of the intern's research committee, and professional conferences can be arranged with the Internship Program Coordinator and the Chief Psychologist, with approval from the Warden.

Training Activities

Supervision and Training – Each intern will be involved in training 40 hours each week at MDC-LA. The 40 hours are apportioned accordingly: two hours of individual supervision by a licensed psychologist, three hours for group supervision and training, one to two hours of didactics, two hours of interdisciplinary consultation, and more than 30 hours of providing direct clinical services and support activities. An additional four hours of experience per week can be obtained off site, engaging in research, attending conferences or participating in other work-related activities.

Assessment – Interns have the opportunity to enhance their diagnostic and assessment skills by evaluating inmates entering the institution for emotional or mental problems. Court-ordered psychological evaluations are also conducted and can involve the administration of a full battery of tests, including intelligence, neuropsychological, and personality tests. Diagnostic testing may also be conducted when treatment and diagnosis are in question.

Treatment – As part of training, interns provide long-term and brief treatment under the supervision of staff. The services to inmates range from crisis intervention and case management with acutely psychotic and suicidal individuals, to more traditional approaches with individuals who manifest personality or behavioral disorders. A broad range of diagnostic groups present for treatment, including adjustment disorders, affective and anxiety disorders, substance abuse, personality disorders, dementia, and psychosis.

Consultation – Interns are supervised in providing consultation to staff concerning management of mentally disordered inmates on housing units, conflict negotiation and resolution, suicide prevention, and diversity management. Opportunities are also provided to participate in staff training activities.

THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Areas of Supervised Experience and Program Activities

The Psychology Internship Program consists of three main rotations each covering a period of approximately four months. The rotations include General Population, Forensic Evaluations, and 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. Videotapes will be made of these sessions for review in individual and group supervision. Group supervision of individual therapy cases is held weekly for one hour.
2. Each week the psychology interns will complete initial intakes for the Cadre Unit. This consists of interviewing the inmate, reviewing records, making appropriate recommendations, and completing a summary intake report. Time spent engaged in this

activity varies with the number of intakes designated per week, as well as the length of time spent documenting the report and providing additional feedback to unit team staff.

3. Interns will be responsible for assisting in training inmates who have been selected as inmate companions in our Inmate Companion Program. These trainings take place regularly throughout the year.
4. 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 institution Annual Training, and will cover the topic of diversity. Interns are also expected to present their dissertation topic to Psychology Services staff, and to create one additional didactic on a topic of their choice before the end of the year.
5. 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 hour monthly devoted to process-oriented supervision with Dr. Delgado, and approximately half-an-hour of daily department rounds, during which interns communicate about critical cases, and receive supervision from all department staff on important issues.
6. Didactic presentations are scheduled weekly, for approximately 1.5 hours each. They cover a variety of topics including prison culture, ethics in corrections, assessment and treatment of LGBTQI clients, forensic issues, suicide prevention, sexual abuse prevention/intervention, evidenced based approaches to treatment, cultural diversity issues, assessment and treatment of sex offenders, and professional and career development.
7. Once a month all interns and department staff participate in a diversity seminar, during which interns present on recent literature related to diversity issues in practice, and multicultural competence.
8. Once a month, all interns will participate in a forensic seminar, in which important case law, frequently used assessment measures, and various forensic issues are discussed. This seminar is conducted with Dr. Matthews.

General Population Rotation

Supervisor: Rebecca Delgado, Psy.D.

The general population rotation focuses primarily on providing general mental health services to inmates. Most of the work consists of screening and assessing the needs of the inmates, referring inmates for psychiatric consultation, conducting brief psychotherapy, providing case management, responding to inmate's requests for services, consulting with correctional and medical staff, and participation in the Admission and Orientation Program for inmates.

Psychology Services Inmate Questionnaire (PSIQ) – Each inmate completes the PSIQ (a screening questionnaire) upon arrival at the institution. These forms are forwarded to Psychology Services and reviewed for pertinent information. Each inmate 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 inmate who requests to be seen by psychology, regardless of previous history,

will be provided contact. An assessment will be conducted and services provided based on the inmate's needs. It is anticipated that approximately 15-20 screenings will be conducted each week by the psychology intern.

Written Requests for Psychology Services – Inmates also communicate a need for psychology services by completing a Written Request Form (also known as a "cop-out"). It is anticipated that the General Population intern will respond to several written requests each week.

Crisis Intervention – This department is often called to respond to crisis situations. Inmates 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 inmates. This psychology intern will be involved in responding to radio calls throughout the institution, and will conduct crisis intervention with inmates in the general population for a variety of presenting problems.

Suicide Risk Assessment – A suicide risk assessment is conducted with any inmate where suicidality is a potential concern. Often times this occurs with newly arriving inmates, inmates for whom this is their first incarceration, or inmates with recent suicide attempts in the community or at another facility. Psychology Services staff will evaluate the risk potential of the inmate and if suicide potential is present, the inmate may be transferred to the SPU, or placed on formal suicide watch.

Brief Psychotherapy – Because the population at MDC-LA is constantly in flux, it is difficult to provide on-going psychotherapy to many inmates. The goal for Psychology Services is to screen most inmates 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 inmate requests, and crisis calls. These inmates will likely require weekly follow-up until stabilization is achieved. If an inmate 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 – Inmates 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 other inmates. A screening is conducted with each inmate endorsing any such 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 inmates who have been placed on a closely monitored, locked-cell status due to administrative or disciplinary issues. This includes inmates who have exhibited significantly disruptive behavior in the general population or have security concerns. Inmates housed on this unit for longer than thirty days receive a formal monthly review by Psychology Services. The general population intern will assist in completing the monthly interviews. They will also be involved in conducting protective custody evaluations, extended restrictive housing evaluations, and responding to general mental health needs of the inmates on this unit.

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

Suggested Reading for the General Population Rotation

Dattilio, F. & Freeman, A. (2000). *Cognitive-behavioral strategies in crisis intervention*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Hare, R. (1993). *Without conscience: The disturbing world of the psychopaths among us*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Hayes, P. (2002). *Addressing cultural complexities in practice*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Lilienfeld, S., Lynn, S., & Lohr, J. (Eds.). (2003). *Science and pseudoscience in clinical psychology*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Miller, W. & Rollnick, S. (2002). *Motivational interviewing: Preparing people for change*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Olin, J. & Keatinge, C. (1998). *Rapid psychological assessment*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Forensic Evaluation Rotation

Supervisors: Lisa Matthews Hope, Psy.D., Samantha Shelton, Psy.D., 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 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 psychological/forensic 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; and crisis intervention and suicide assessment and prevention with various emergencies that arise. Each intern will also participate in a mock trial

at the end of their rotation. He/she 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 administration of psychological tests. The remainder of the rotation involves conducting complete forensic assessments under direct supervision, including 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.

Required Readings for the Forensic Evaluation Rotation

Blocker v. United States, 288 F. 2d 853 (1961).

Committee on Ethical Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists. (1991). Specialty guidelines for forensic psychologists. *Law and Human Behavior*, 6, 655-665.

Dusky v. United States, 362 U. S. 402 (1960).

Greene, R. L. (2010). *The MMPI-2/MMPI-2-RF: An interpretive manual* (3rd ed.). Pearson.

Grisso, T. (2003). *Evaluating competencies: Forensic assessments and instruments* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

MacDonald v. United States, 312 F. 2d 847 (1962).

Shapiro, D. (1999). *Criminal responsibility evaluations: A manual for practice*. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Exchange.

United States v. Brawner, 471 F. 2d 969 (D.C. Cir., 1972).

United States v. Currens, 290 F. 2d 751 (3rd Cir., 1961).

United States v. Wilson, 263 F. Supp. 528 (D.C. Cir., 1966), 391 F. 2d 460.

Suggested Readings for the Forensic Evaluation Rotation

- Alexander, G. J. & Schefflin, A. W. (1998). *Law and mental disorder*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
- Doren, D. M. (2002). *Evaluating sex offenders: A manual for civil commitments and beyond*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ekman, P. (2009). *Telling lies: Clues to deceit in the marketplace, politics, and marriage* (rev. ed.). New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Goldstein, A. M. (2006). *Forensic psychology: Emerging topics and expanding roles*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Hare, R. D. (1993). *Without conscience*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Lezak, M. D., Howieson, D. B., Bigler, E. D. & Tranel, D. (2012). *Neuropsychological assessment* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., & Lohr, J. M. (2004). *Science and pseudoscience in clinical psychology*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Melton, G., Petrila, J., Poythress, N., & Slobogin (2007). *Psychological evaluations for the courts: A handbook for mental health professionals and lawyers* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- O'Leary, K. M., Brouwers, P., Gardner, D. L., & Cowdry, R. W. (1991). Neuropsychological testing with borderline personality disorder. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 148, 106-111.
- Quinsey, V. L., Harris, G. T., Rice, M. E., & Cormier, C. A. (2006). *Violent offenders: Appraising and managing risk* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Roberts, C. F. & Golding, S. L. (1991). The social construction of criminal responsibility and insanity. *Law and Human Behavior*, 5, 349-376.
- Rogers, R. (2008). *Clinical assessment of malingering and deception* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Simon, R. I. (1992). *Review of clinical psychiatry and the law* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press.

- Tardiff, K. (1996). *Concise guide to assessment and management of violent patients* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press.
- Taylor, R. L. (2000). *Distinguishing psychological from organic disorders: Screening for psychological masquerade* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.
- Weiner, I. B. & Otto, R. K. (2013). *Handbook of forensic psychology* (4th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
- Wexler, D. B. (1990). *Therapeutic jurisprudence: The law as a therapeutic agent*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
- Widiger, T. A. & Shea, T. (1991). Differentiation of axis I and axis II disorders. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 100*, 399- 406.
- Yochelson, S. & Samenow, S. E. (1989). *Criminal personality* (Vols. 1-3). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc.
- Faust, D. (2011). *Coping with psychiatric and psychological testimony* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Mental Health Rotation

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

The Mental Health Rotation deals primarily with inmates on the Special Programs Unit (SPU). The SPU serves as a placement for individuals suffering from 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 suicidal inmates on formal suicide precautions status. The primary goal for inmates placed on this unit is preparation for a successful transition into general population housing.

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.

Initial Evaluations – A complete evaluation will be performed on each inmate who is placed on the SPU. The evaluation includes a clinical interview, a mental status exam, a review of the background information, and behavioral observations. The goal is to identify individuals suffering from a mental illness and maximize treatment potential, while attempting to maintain the safety of the inmate and others.

Suicide Watches – Inmates who are placed on a formal suicide watch are housed in one of the four cells designated for suicide prevention on the unit. The mental health 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 the SPU policies brochure. Inmates on suicide watch are seen for treatment on a daily basis. Transfer to the SPU general population or another unit will occur once the inmate's risk potential has substantially diminished. If warranted, the inmate will receive an increased care level to ensure ongoing follow-up is provided once removed from suicide watch precautions.

Crisis Intervention – Psychology staff will often be called upon to assist in a difficult situation or for guidance in handling a mentally ill inmate on the SPU. The mental health intern will be responsible for handling crisis situations with inmates on this unit. Similar to crisis intervention on the general population 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 offender.

Brief Psychotherapy – The occurrence of brief psychotherapy depends on the needs of the inmate and length of his/her stay at the institution. However, inmates 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 SPU, as well as those inmates 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 psychology intern on this rotation will be responsible for running at least two treatment groups during the rotation. All groups must be chosen from the Inmate Programs Catalog, but can be tailored to the intern's interest and the needs of the inmate population at that time. One of the required groups will take place with inmates on the SPU, and the other required group will take place with the female inmates. Additionally, there will be an option for an additional group to be conducted with a general population unit, and this can be discussed with the primary supervisor if it is of interest to the intern. While on this rotation, interns will also have the opportunity to observe group treatment conducted with the Non-Residential Drug Abuse Program participants.

Case Management – Often circumstances require a case management approach. Thus, the interns' communication and consultation skills will be utilized. The mental health intern will be expected to present new SPU cases during daily department rounds, and will provide updates to the 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.

Suggested Reading for the Mental Health Rotation

Bongar, B. (2002). *The suicidal patient: Clinical and legal standards of care* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

- Daley, D. & Moss, H. (2002). *Dual disorders: Counseling clients with chemical dependency and mental illness*. Center City, MN: Hazeldon Foundation.
- Hayes, L. (1995). *Prison suicide: An overview and guide to prevention*. Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections.
- Linehan, M. (1993). *Cognitive behavioral treatment of borderline personality disorder*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Meloy, J. R. (2000). *Violence risk and threat assessment*. San Diego, CA: Specialized Training Services.
- Oldham, J., Skodol, A., & Bender, D. (Eds.). (2005). *Textbook of personality disorders*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.
- Sadock, B. & Saddock, V (Eds.). (2005). *Comprehensive textbook of psychiatry* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins Publishing.
- Sadock, B. & Saddock, V. (2007). *Synopsis of psychiatry*. New York, NY: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins Publishing.
- Simeon, D. & Hollander, E. (Eds.). (2001). *Self-injurious behaviors: Assessment and treatment*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.
- Wright, J., Thase, M., Beck, A., & Lundate, J. (Eds). (1993). *Cognitive therapy with inpatients*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Zuckerman, M. (2000). *Vulnerability to psychopathology: A biosocial model*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For over 40 years the Bureau of Prisons has relied on the Psychology Internship Program to provide a large proportion of the number of entry-level clinical and counseling psychologists required to meet staffing needs. Many of the psychologists currently employed by the Bureau began their careers after completing internships with the federal prison system.

Projections continue to indicate an increase in the inmate census over present levels. Additional psychologist positions are likely to be created, partly to respond to the mental health needs of these new federal prisoners. While we do not promise jobs automatically to those who are accepted into the Internship Program, we prefer to hire people who have already proven themselves to be competent practitioners in correctional environments. Therefore, we will look to our intern classes first in making employment offers. Please refer to the table at the end of the brochure for initial post-internship placements of our previous three intern classes.

Newly selected staff members who have just completed their doctoral programs, typically start at the GS-11 salary level. Upon successful completion of their first year, psychologists are automatically upgraded to the GS-12 level with further promotions to GS-13 and GS-14 levels possible.

In the Bureau of Prisons, psychologists enjoy a great deal of professional autonomy. We are the main providers of mental health services. Our departments are not subordinated to the decisions of psychiatrists. As a staff psychologist, you may have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of treatment programs, conduct evaluations for the federal courts, and be involved in one of the BOP's many response teams, such as the Crisis Support Team. Annual continuing education is available as a part of each psychologist's professional development program. Many attend seminars, workshops, or the annual APA convention. Considerable latitude is allowed in making choices. Psychologists also have the opportunity to choose the part of the country and, given the availability of positions, the type of facility—high, medium, low, and minimum security—in which they wish to work.

As permanent federal employees, all new psychologists are covered by the Federal Employee Retirement System and pension plan. Federal employees also have the additional opportunity to contribute income to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which is the government's version of a 401K plan. Bureau employees may retire after 20 years, provided they have reached the age of 50, and receive a full pension. The Bureau of Prisons is an equal opportunity employer.

Application Requirements and Procedures

The positions offered for the upcoming internship year are open to all students enrolled in APA accredited clinical and counseling doctoral psychology programs. In order to be internship eligible, students must have successfully completed all doctoral course work, other than the dissertation, by the beginning of the internship. The Bureau of Prisons is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages the application of minority students.

All applicants must be registered with the National Matching Services, Inc. in order to be eligible for this internship program. Positions will be filled strictly in accordance with APPIC policy and on-line application procedures. Applicants' eligibility for temporary federal employment must then be verified via www.usajobs.gov. Once an applicant has successfully completed this process, he or she may be invited for an in-person interview.

Throughout the training year, interns will accrue four hours each of sick and annual leave per pay period. Interns will also be allowed to request administrative leave for specific job-related purposes, and those requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Warden. Specific maternity and paternity policies are available in the Human Resource Management Manual (Chapter 6, Section 630.4). Additional time off will be determined on a case-by-case basis by 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.

Positions will be filled through the APPIC Matching Service, and results will be communicated to both students and training sites on Match Day. 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.

All BOP positions are considered "sensitive." Applicants must be U.S. citizens (have lived in the U.S. for three of the last five years) and must successfully complete a security clearance procedure that includes personnel interviews, a background investigation, a physical examination, and urinalysis drug screen. Internship offers resulting from participating in the APPIC matching process are tentative and are contingent on security clearance. Prospective candidates may be asked to complete this portion of the interview process prior to the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) match date. Successful completion of this process is a necessary prerequisite for employment as a BOP intern. The security clearance process may be completed at this institution or at any other BOP facility.

COVID-19 Note: As a mandatory public safety requirement, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) now requires all staff, including psychology interns, to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment. Proof of vaccination will be required at all BOP internship program sites. Your completed CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card will meet this requirement. You may, however, request a reasonable accommodation from the mandatory vaccination policy due to a qualifying disability or medical condition, or based on sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance.

THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS NOVEMBER 1st

All application materials must be submitted online by **November 1, 2021**; however, applicants are encouraged to submit their application materials as early as possible. A completed application includes the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI), with *three* letters of recommendation. The AAPI is available from the APPIC web site at <http://www.appic.org/>. You may apply to one or more of the Bureau of Prisons internship programs and your credentials will be evaluated independently at each site. Due to the nature of the Bureau of Prison'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 in January 2022. If matched with a Bureau of Prisons internship site, you will be considered an essential worker and will report daily to the institution.

Psychology Services at MDC Los Angeles is proud of its Psychology Internship Program. We look forward to having an opportunity to talk with you about it. If you have questions before beginning the application procedure, please contact:

Rebecca Delgado, Psy.D., Internship Program Coordinator
535 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 485-0439, Ext. 5437
rdelgado@bop.gov

**APPIC POLICY
REGARDING INTERNSHIP MATCHING**

The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) has developed guidelines for procedures used in student-internship matching. The guidelines have evolved over time and will continue to do so as APPIC remains responsive to the varied concerns around this issue. 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.

The internship at MDC-LA is participating in the APPIC Internship Matching Program. **All applicants must obtain an Application Agreement Package from the National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS) and register for the matching program in order to be eligible to match to our program.**

INTERNSHIP ADMISSIONS, SUPPORT AND INITIAL PLACEMENT DATA

Date Program Tables are updated: July 19, 2021

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. Prior work experience in a correctional setting is not required, but training and experiences indicative of appropriate interest are important considerations in selections. To ensure that interns are prepared to complete the internship while carrying on any research project required by the graduate program, applicants must have defended the proposal for such project prior to the match date. They must have completed all doctoral course work by the beginning of the internship.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	Amount: 400
Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	Amount: 100

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

To be internship eligible, students must be U.S. citizens who have lived in the United States for the past 3 out of 5 years. Applicants will be required to complete a security clearance procedure before the offer of an internship position can be considered final. The Bureau of Prisons is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and encourages the application of minority students. Please refer to policy statement 3713.30 Diversity Management and Affirmative Employment for further information regarding nondiscrimination policies.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns	\$63,052	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns	NA	
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If access to medical insurance is provided:		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Coverage of family member(s) available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Coverage of legally married partner available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Coverage of domestic partner available?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	4 hrs/pay period	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	4 hrs/pay period	
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="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Other Benefits (please describe): Interns may be eligible for a Healthcare Flexible Spending Account. Specific maternity and paternity policies are also available.		

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

Initial Post-Internship Positions

(Provide an Aggregated Tally for the Preceding 3 Cohorts)

	2018-2020	
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	0
University counseling center	0	0
Veterans Affairs medical center	1	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	7
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	0	1
Not currently employed	0	0
Changed to another field	0	0
Other	0	0
Unknown	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table should be counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.