



AUGUSTA
UNIVERSITY



Psychology Internship Program
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior



Christopher F. Drescher, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry & Health Behavior
Training Director, Psychology Internship
cdrescher@augusta.edu



Jessica Britt-Thomas, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Departments of
Family Medicine and Psychiatry and
Health Behavior
Associate Training Director,
Psychology Internship
jbrittthomas@augusta.edu

Message from the Training Directors

The Augusta University-Medical College of Georgia Psychology Internship was created to provide high quality psychology internship training with a focus on interdisciplinary health care settings. We train health service psychologists to be leaders in serving those most in need in the community through clinical practice, research, advocacy, education, and administration. We model the independent practice of psychology guided by evidence-based principles, compassion, ethical problem-solving, and effective relationships. In April 2026, we applied to be a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). We submitted our self-study for accreditation to the American Psychological Association (APA) in December 2025 and as of February 2026 the application was under preliminary review. Please be advised that there is no assurance that we will be able to successfully achieve APA accreditation or APPIC Membership.

With the broader institutional missions of MCG aimed at providing outstanding educational and clinical service programs involving health professionals, biomedical scientists, and educators at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels, this psychology internship has a breadth of training opportunities in interdisciplinary contexts.

Our faculty share a deep commitment to educating our future health care professionals, striving for compassionate and excellent clinical service and advancing science. We are excited to support trainees as they progress to careers of accomplishment and meaning. Integral to our internship training are joint educational and clinical service activities with primary care physicians, psychiatrists and other physician specialists, nurses, social workers, and allied health professionals.



Training Model and Organization

- Training in the implementation of essential practice skills in key field settings
- Training in an empirical approach to practice (fostering attitudes of empiricism and reflection)
- Training in the provision of care for underserved populations and areas

Rotation Organization

EMPHASIS TRACKS

One position available per track

- Child and Family Track: Point of contact Dr. Christopher Drescher (cdrescher@augusta.edu)
- Forensic Track: Point of contact Dr. Holly Tabernik (htabernik@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Chronic Illness Track: Point of contact Dr. Rebecca Jump (rjump@augusta.edu)
- Health Psych – Integrated Primary Care Track: Point of contact: Dr. Jessica Britt-Thomas (jbrittthomas@augusta.edu)

The General Practice Rotation: Clinical training sites include MC and East Central Regional Hospital. This rotation focuses on opportunities for development of psychological assessment skills and individual and group psychotherapies.

The Integrated Health Psychology Rotation: Clinical training occurs at MCG sites. Located in various inpatient and outpatient medical settings spread across Wellstar MCG Health, outpatient clinics, and Wellstar Children’s Hospital of Georgia, this rotation focuses on acquiring skills that will enable psychology interns to apply fundamental psychological assessment and treatment principles to health care settings with a goal of training interns to function independently in interdisciplinary health care settings.

The Emphasis Track Rotation: The Emphasis Track rotation is selected prior to entry into the internship program. The Emphasis Track rotations allow interns to experience more focused training opportunities that are consistent with their long-range career interests. At present there are four track choices available (see left).

In addition to the Emphasis Track rotation, one day of each week for the entire year is devoted to emphasis training within your chosen track, thereby facilitating more depth and continuity in this aspect of your training experience.

Training Program Goals

The specific goals of the MCG Psychology Internship are as follows:

Goal I: Preparing professional psychologists to support quality primary care in integrated approaches to health care issues.

Objective 1: To develop in psychology interns' general proficiency in clinical assessment and intervention.

Sub-Objective 1: To train interns in a broad range of empirically supported assessment strategies.

A. Diagnostic Interviewing

B. Psychological Testing

Sub-Objective 2: To train interns to become proficient in the implementation of a broad range of interventions, with an emphasis on empirically supported treatments.

Sub-Objective 3: To train interns to become proficient in the implementation of interventions with a broad range of patient populations.

Objective 2: To develop in psychology interns' specific proficiencies in providing clinical assessment and treatment in integrated approaches to health care issues.

Sub-Objective 1: To train interns in consultation assessment strategies in medical contexts.


Sub-Objective 2: To train psychology interns to function effectively in interdisciplinary teams.

Sub-Objective 3: To train interns to apply treatment strategies in medical settings.

Goal II: Preparing professional psychologists who have experience with and interest in serving in mental health and medically underserved populations and areas.

Objective 1: To provide psychology interns with practicum experiences involving patients from mental health and medically underserved populations and areas.

Objective 2: To provide psychology interns with educational/didactic experiences involving consumers and providers from mental health and medically underserved populations and areas.



Goal III: Preparing professional psychologists that stay abreast of evidence-based practices. (Develop the Attitudes of Empiricism and Reflection in Clinical Practice)

Objective 1: To train interns to systematically gather and integrate research data, idiographic patient data, idiographic clinician data, and nomothetic and idiographic cultural data for the purpose of clinical assessment and treatment.

Objective 2: To train interns to routinize reflective processes in their clinical practice. These reflective processes include the critical thinking inherent in scientific experimentation, habits of reflection outside of direct clinical practice, and the capacity to reflect while in action.

Objective 3: To continue the development of intern research skills and thinking through the ongoing participation in a research-scholarship project.

Goal IV: Preparing professional psychologists who aspire to cultural competence in their practice.


Objective 1: To train interns to be culturally competent.

Goal V: Cultivating a professional identity in professional psychologists.

Objective 1: To train interns to maintain an awareness of the ethical standards of the profession of psychology.

Objective 2: To train interns to constructively participate in the ongoing professional development of themselves and their colleagues.

Objective 3: To train interns to develop and execute lifelong learning through ongoing self-evaluation, effective use of supervision and consultation, and continuous pursuit of knowledge and skills pertinent to the practice of professional psychology.



Track Descriptions

Child and Family

Training within the Child and Family Emphasis Track stresses experiences in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of children and adolescents across multiple settings and presenting problems. The track is designed to expose interns to multiple evidence-based treatment modalities (e.g., dialectical behavior therapy, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, family therapy) and assessment procedures (e.g., cognitive, adaptive, neurodevelopmental, and personality testing) for children and adolescents. Core experiences on this track include individual and group therapy through the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior outpatient clinic and comprehensive psychological and developmental assessments in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. Interns completing training on this track are well-positioned to complete specialty training in child and adolescent clinical psychology at the postdoctoral level.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	DB Pediatrics	Child Outpatient	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	DB Pediatrics	Inpatient Cancer	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adolescent Medicine	DB Pediatrics	Child Outpatient	Seminars/Research	Child Outpatient

Forensic

The Forensic Track Intern completes a variety of court-ordered evaluations during the training year, to include competency to stand trial evaluation, violence risk assessments, and criminal responsibility evaluations. The Forensic Intern is responsible for conducting interviews relevant to the legal questions and is the first author on reports to the court. In addition to practice with semi-structured interviewing, Forensic Interns will gain familiarity with Forensic Assessment Measures, including but not limited to the ECST-R, MFAST, SIRS-2, TOMM, HCR-20 V3, ILK, and PCL-R. These assessments will take place both inpatient and outpatient settings. In addition to assessment work, Forensic Interns can elect to conduct both group and individual intervention on an inpatient basis. Group interventions include, but are not limited to DBT, Sex Offender Treatment, and Competency Restoration. Lastly, throughout the year, the Forensic Intern will contribute to an interdisciplinary team at East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH). Interns who complete the Forensic Track will be well positioned for a post-doctoral fellowship in Forensic Psychology. As an added bonus, ECRH has an ABPP experience Waivered Forensic Postdoctoral Fellowship, which many of our prior interns have stayed on to complete.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Adult Outpatient	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	Family Medicine	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Emphasis Track Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	ECRH	ECRH	Seminars/Research	ECRH

Health Psych—Chronic Illness

The Chronic Illness Track offers specialized training in integrated behavioral health within a medical specialty care setting. Interns are primarily based at the Ryan White HIV Clinic in the Infectious Diseases Division of Wellstar MCG. Training emphasizes brief, evidence-based behavioral health services embedded in medical care. Core experiences include conducting brief psychological intakes, providing behavioral health consultation, delivering brief interventions, facilitating group therapy, and contributing to program development. Interns also gain valuable experience working as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team, collaborating with medical providers to support the complex needs of patients living with chronic illness. On Fridays throughout the year, Chronic Illness interns will complete psychotherapy in the Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic and primarily work with patients living with HIV. This includes in person work, as well as telepsychology with patients from the Richmond County Health Department (RCHD). There are also opportunities to work with the LGBTQ+ population. In addition to therapy services, interns may participate in community outreach activities supporting these populations. In this setting, clinical training will include individual therapy with an emphasis on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and mindfulness-based approaches. Opportunities to participate in gender evaluations may also be available depending on patient demand.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Adult Outpatient	Adult Outpatient	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Family Medicine	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Emphasis Track Rotation				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	Inpatient Cancer	HIV Clinic	Seminars/Research	RCHD/Adult Outpt.

Health Psych—Integrated Primary Care

The Integrated Primary Care Track provides doctoral interns with comprehensive training in delivering behavioral health services within multidisciplinary medical settings. Interns rotate through Family Medicine, Neurology, the HIV Clinic, and the Cancer Center, gaining broad exposure to diverse patient populations and healthcare systems. Across these rotations, interns are trained in evidence-based brief and longer-term interventions targeting health-related concerns and co-occurring psychiatric conditions. Clinical experiences span both acute and chronic medical presentations, including but not limited to psych-oncology, functional neurological disorders, HIV-related health conditions, and chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, COPD, and obesity. Interns develop competency within an integrated, collaborative care model, engaging in same-day behavioral health consultations, warm handoffs, and ongoing interdisciplinary communication with physicians and other medical providers. Emphasis is placed on delivering efficient, patient-centered care within fast-paced medical environments. In addition to intervention, interns gain experience in clinical assessment, including the use of integrated psychological test batteries and targeted evaluations relevant to health psychology and behavioral medicine. Completion of the Integrated Primary Care Track prepares interns for advanced specialty training in health psychology at the postdoctoral level and equips them with the skills necessary to function effectively in integrated medical settings.

Example Schedule (subject to change):

General Practice Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ECRH	Adult Outpatient	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient

Integrated Health Psychology Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Neurology	Inpatient Oncology	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient


Emphasis Track Rotation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HIV	Family Medicine	Family Medicine	Seminars/Research	Adult Outpatient

Training Site Descriptions

The **Family Medicine Center (FMC)** at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University serves as the largest primary care training site within the department and provides comprehensive care across the lifespan, from cradle to grave. The clinic operates within a traditional Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) model, in which psychology services are embedded directly within primary care. Behavioral health providers collaborate closely with attending physicians and family medicine residents to support whole-person care. Services include same-day behavioral health consultations, warm handoffs from medical providers, brief intervention models common to primary care, as well as longer-term psychotherapy when clinically indicated. In addition to therapeutic services, the psychology team provides a range of clinical assessments, including cognitive, neuropsychological, and psychological evaluations. The department houses an active Family Medicine Residency Program, creating a highly collaborative interprofessional training environment that includes physician residents, medical students, and clinical pharmacy trainees. Psychology interns rotating through the FMC serve as integral members of the behavioral health team, contributing to patient care, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the training mission of the clinic.


Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) provides comprehensive neurodevelopmental and psychological evaluations for children and adolescents referred primarily by pediatricians for diagnostic clarification. Evaluations often involve complex developmental and behavioral presentations related to conditions such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, and intellectual disability. Interns work closely with the supervising psychologist and participate in all stages of the assessment process, including diagnostic interviewing, test administration and scoring, integrated report writing, and feedback to families. DBP serves a largely medically underserved population and emphasizes thoughtful diagnostic formulation and clear, actionable recommendations to guide intervention across healthcare, therapy, and educational settings.




Interns in the **Neurology Clinic** will have the opportunity to provide psychological care in an interdisciplinary setting to a wide variety of patients and presentations. Neurological disorders encountered will likely include Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, stroke, traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, functional neurological disorder, and more. Interns will provide initial psychological assessments (possibly including brief neuropsychological assessment such as the RBANS), ad-hoc outpatient consults, and short-term psychotherapy for identified return patients.

East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH) is a state-operated intermediate security forensic and civil psychiatric hospital. Interns who rotate through ECRH will gain exposure to individuals who have been diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illnesses, intellectual developmental disorders, personality disorders, and substance use disorders. Many of our individuals also have physical health concerns. Interns will participate in interdisciplinary team meetings as well as rounds. ECRH is one of three assessment placements within the internship, typical assessments include diagnostic clarification, competency to stand trial, and violence risk. Interns may also elect to participate in group and/or individual intervention while at ECRH.


The **Ryan White HIV Clinic**, located on the AU Health Sciences Campus, is a free-standing facility that serves approximately 1,200 patients living with HIV across a five-state region surrounding Augusta. The clinic is deeply committed to advancing health equity, providing comprehensive care to a diverse population that includes many underinsured and uninsured individuals. The setting is multidisciplinary, with interns functioning in a dynamic interprofessional environment that fosters collaboration across medical, behavioral health, and support services. Care is further enhanced by on-site resources, including an in-house retail pharmacy and dental clinic, which support the complex needs of patients. The clinic also serves as the primary training site for the Chronic Illness Track and offers rotation opportunities for psychology interns from other tracks.





The **Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Outpatient Clinic**, housed in the Stoney Building, provides interns opportunities to work with adult, adolescent, and/or child patients (depending on emphasis track). Interns will complete intake interviews and individual psychotherapy, as well as co-lead a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Groups (adolescent or adult). There are some opportunities for family therapy. To the extent possible, cases are selected in alignment with the intern's individual training goals. Typical cases are related to mood disturbance, anxiety and trauma-related disorders, health behavior concerns, and/or the LGBTQ+ population. Clinical training will include an emphasis on evidence-based treatments, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), DBT, and other mindfulness-based approaches.

The Inpatient Psycho-Oncology Consultation-Liaison (CL) Service, housed in the **Wellstar Georgia Cancer Center**, provides integrated psychological care to hospitalized hematology/oncology patients, addressing psychosocial and emotional factors that impact the hospital admission, medical treatment, and the patient's quality of life. Within this setting, psychology interns conduct focused assessments and deliver brief, targeted interventions for concerns such as anxiety, depression, insomnia, pain, treatment adherence, and grief. Interns develop skills in interdisciplinary communication/collaboration and care coordination. This rotation also supports interns in building knowledge of hematology/oncology populations, related medical terminology, and the psychological impact of serious medical illness, while strengthening their skills in a fast-paced inpatient medical environment.



COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of 2080 hours of training.
- Minimum of 520 hours of direct clinical services.
- Demonstrated competency in all internship milestones.
- Maintain timesheets that record direct and indirect service hours.
- Participation in at least one leadership project.
- Completion of a minimum of one research/scholarly project resulting in a publishable written product.
- Demonstrate assessment proficiencies by completion of three comprehensive psychological batteries during the training year.



Seminars

The Diagnostic/Treatment Seminar: Application of a “Problem-Based Learning” (PBL) model. The PBL approach to learning employs a clinical case/problem as the vehicle of learning and demands development of clinical/scientific reasoning.

The Psychotherapy Process Seminar: Provides a laboratory to develop skills of empiricism and reflection in the nonparticipant mode of peer supervision. Each intern, with the seminar directors, takes turns presenting a live or video psychotherapy case. Didactics for the seminar focus upon: (a) common factors in psychotherapy; (b) cognitive behavioral therapy, and; (c) therapy termination.

The Professional Issues Seminar: Devoted to didactics and discussions related to the professional development of the intern, including leadership development. The seminar focuses on the non-therapy aspects of being a psychologist and meets once per month.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- Faculty committed to training: Over 12 licensed psychologists that serve as supervisors or other training contributors.
- Availability of varied clinical experiences across multiple interdisciplinary care settings.
- High intern ratings for training experience: multi-year data collected from post-intern graduates indicate consistently high ratings of the quality of the training experience.
- Intern scholarly productivity: interns have protected research time and often present and publish during the internship year.
- Intern success in obtaining postdoctoral positions: interns regularly secure postdoctoral positions and employment in their chosen settings following completion of the internship.
- Multiple career paths: internship graduates have embarked on varied career paths in settings including academic and VA medical centers, independent practice, and inpatient hospitals.



Other Training Experiences

Cultural Competence Training Experiences: Cultural competence is a critical area of competence for psychologists. One of the main goals of our psychology internship is preparing professional psychologists who aspire to greater cultural competence in their practice. Throughout the training year, the internship embeds cultural competence in all its training activities. This is accomplished through cultural competency topics across all seminars, clinical practicum experiences, a yearly cultural competence workshop, and a review of diagnostic interview and case conceptualization that addresses the pertinent cultural areas.

Equality Clinic: The Equality Clinic of Augusta is an independent nonprofit organization. The Equality Clinic is an all-volunteer service that provides integrated primary care to uninsured/under-insured LGBTQ individuals. Interns may volunteer to participate in this experience and function as part of a large Interdisciplinary primary care team. Through the Equality Clinic, interns gain skills in consultation to physicians and patients, rapid assessment, crisis intervention, motivational interviewing and behavioral interventions.

Additional Educational Opportunities

- Departmental Grand Rounds: two sessions per month
- Workshops: half to full-day workshops several times per year
- Four hours weekly dedicated to research/scholarly activity

SUPERVISION

Due to the complexity of internship training and the diverse interests and educational needs of our trainees, the internship provides different categories of supervision.

- **Overall Supervisor:** Responsible for the development of an understanding of the unique educational needs and interests of the intern and to develop and monitor a year-long strategy to maximize the training experience.
- **Rotational Supervisor:** Responsible for establishing and communicating clear educational goals for the rotational experience, supervising all professional activities on the rotation/, maintaining on-site presence during all intern clinical encounters, verifying the accuracy and timeliness of all clinical documentation, and providing routine verbal and written performance feedback .
- **Mentor:** We encourage, but do not require, the intern to seek a personal mentor relationship with a faculty person that does NOT have an evaluative role with them. This mentor functions as an informal counselor, advisor, role model, and advocate.

HOW TO APPLY

Application Process: We use the APPIC Online Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) that can be found at: <http://appic.org>. Of note, we require one de-identified integrated assessment report to be submitted as supplemental material with your application. The deadline for receipt of your application is November 1. Offers are tendered through the APPIC National Matching program.

Applicant Qualifications: Only applicants from APA accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology with data-based doctoral dissertations will be considered. Interns are expected to have completed at least three years of doctoral study with a minimum number of 400 intervention hours and 40 assessment hours before entering our internship; there may be some leniency with respect to these hours given COVID-19 restraints in training among some graduate programs. Applicants must:

- Complete their master's degree requirements prior to the application deadline (if applicable in their doctoral program)
- Pass comprehensive exams by the ranking deadline
- Have Dissertation Proposal approval by the start of the internship

Emphasis Tracks: Intern applicants are matched according to Emphasis Track interests. This allows interns to accumulate a specific expertise that is consistent with their career interests and enhances their marketability upon graduation.

Interviews: Virtual interviews will be held in January. The format of the interview days includes:

- Orientation of the program sites, faculty, and training experiences
- Individual virtual interviews with faculty
- Non-evaluative meeting with current interns

Requests to virtually meet with specific faculty outside of more formal scheduled interviews are honored whenever possible.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER BENEFITS

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-Time Interns	\$37,063
Program provides access to medical insurance for intern	Yes
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes
Coverage of domestic partner available?	No
Hours of Annual Paid Time Off (PTO/vacation)	80
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	80
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 PTO and sick leave?	Yes
Other Benefits	Up to 5 days of authorized professional leave for conferences. Spring break during the first full week of April.

MCG Interns only 2022-2023 Cohort, 2023-2024 Cohort, 2024-2025 Cohort

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	12	
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0	
	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Employment
Hospital/medical center	5	
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	1	
Psychiatric facility	2	
Independent practice setting	4	