

Kansas City VA Medical Center

Psychology Internship Program



MATCH Number: 234011

Application Due Date: November 12, 2023

Internship Start Date: July 15, 2024

Kansas City VA Medical Center

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Accreditation Status

The Psychology Internship Program at the **Kansas City VA Medical Center** is **accredited** by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Commission on Accreditation (CoA)
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
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<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/>

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Application & Selection Procedures

Eligibility Requirements

The Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVA) is pleased to offer three psychology internship positions for the 2024-2025 training year! To be considered for the internship program at KCVA, the applicant must meet the following entrance requirements prior to the start date:

1. **Education.** Applicant must be enrolled in an APA, CPA, or PCSAS accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology for a Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree. The student must be within one year or less of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D and must have completed all graduate prerequisites for internship candidacy including completion of comprehensive exams by **November 12, 2023**.
2. **Direct Hours.** The KCVA looks for a minimum of 500 direct clinical intervention and 25 direct assessment hours of supervised graduate-level externship experience; however, lower numbers will still be considered if additional relevant training experiences have been procured.
3. **Commitment.** Applicant must be able to accept a full-time appointment for a one year training period and commits to completing the full internship training year.
4. **U.S. Citizenship.** All VA appointees must be a citizen of the United States for consideration.
5. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
6. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee.
7. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All Health Profession Trainees (HPTs) will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations prior to onboarding.
8. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. Health Professional Trainees (HPTs) are exempt from drug-testing prior to appointment; however, fellows are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You are required to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice prior to receiving your formal offer of employment. Please note that VA will initiate termination of VA appointment and/or dismissal from VA against any trainee who is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test (even if a drug is legal in the state where training) or refuses to be drug tested. Health Profession Trainees will be given the opportunity to justify a positive test result by submitting supplemental medical documentation to a Medical Review Officer when a confirmed positive test could have resulted from legally prescribed medication.
9. **Additional Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and eligibility can be found at the below link. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

To further check on your eligibility for psychology training at the VA, please refer to the following link:

[Resources for Health Professions Trainees Coming to VA | Eligibility and Forms - Office of Academic Affiliations](#)

Stipend, Benefits, and Application Information

The stipend for VA internships is set by the Office of Academic Affiliations. The Kansas City VA Medical Center internship stipend is currently set at **\$33,892** for the full-time, one year training program. The training

year starts on or about **July 15, 2024 and ends July 15, 2025**. VA training programs offer health and life insurance benefits.

The Kansas City VA Medical Center maintains a policy of equal employment opportunity in training recruitment and retention. All recruitment processes are consistent with existing federal laws, guidelines, and policies. As a federal employee, drug screens and background checks are routine. The Department of Veterans Affairs, and consequently this medical center, adheres to the Americans With Disabilities Act and will provide reasonable accommodations for an individual who informs us that s/he has a disability. If you are a retired federal employee, before you apply to this predoctoral internship program, you should contact the Human Resources department to determine whether or not you may accept a funded position as an intern with the VA Medical Center.

Online Application Procedure

Applications for internship must be submitted using the APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI) online portal. The launch of the AAPI is the culmination of a multi-year effort by APPIC to make the internship application process more cost-effective and efficient for applicants, doctoral programs, and internship sites. Students may now access the AAPI (www.appic.org) to create and develop their application for the selection process. As part of the AAPI, you will be required to provide three letters of recommendations and your graduate school transcripts. We do not require any supplemental information to the online application. Applicants can register for the APPIC Match via the Match website at www.natmatch.com/psychint. Prior to registering, applicants should review the information in the Applicant Registration section of the Match website. Applicants are required to provide their Match Code Number on their AAPI applications; therefore, applicants must register for the Match before submitting applications to internship programs.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL MATERIALS IS NOVEMBER 12, 2023.

If there are questions about the internship program or if you need to check the status of your application, please contact Dr. Kristen Davis-Durairaj, Internship Training Director at kristen.davis-durairaj@va.gov.

Our APPIC match number through National Matching Services, Inc. is: 234011.

Post Application Process

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Kansas City VA Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, sexual or gender orientation, national origin, non-disqualifying mental or physical disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor.

Training staff recognize the impact of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture, and gender across all levels of psychological theory, research, practice, and education. We seek both staff and interns who are strongly committed to diversity and who are supportive of providing a welcoming work and training environment. We welcome members of underrepresented groups including women and minorities and encourage them to apply for positions. The training staff at KCVA believes that we provide a safe and encouraging environment for the exploration of multicultural and diversity issues.

All members of the psychology staff at KCVA are invited to participate in the intern selection process. Each application is read, reviewed, and scored by multiple staff members. The Training Director will participate in this process and also will compile and rank order the staff application ratings. After all applicants have been reviewed and rank ordered, the top applicants will be offered interviews. Applicants not selected for interviews will be notified (by e-mail) by December 8, 2023 that they are no longer candidates for KCVA internship.

Candidates who are selected for interviews for the Kansas City VA psychology internship will be notified via e-mail by 12/8/23. Applicants who are not being considered for interviews will also be notified by e-mail

by this same date. Interviews will consist of three 25 to 30-minute individual interviews with 1-2 staff members in each interview. Candidates will be provided with a spreadsheet of optional days, times, and interviewers. We will do our best to match you with any requested preferences in staff/rotation supervisors for the interviews. Interview days are currently scheduled for **January 16-18, 2024**. Candidates will also be invited to attend a virtual internship orientation session and a session to meet with primary supervisors to ask questions about rotations. We will have 2-3 optional times to choose from for these additional sessions. Candidates will also be provided with the option to meet with current interns in a non-evaluative capacity to ask questions about the program, as well a few options times to meet with the training director. All interviews are offered virtually using Microsoft Teams to support safety protocols and to promote equity in regards to financial capabilities to travel. Hospital tours with the Training Director will be considered upon request and will have no bearing on the internship interview and selection process.

The Kansas City VA uses a formal interview process with set questions that are asked of all candidates, in order to increase our intra-rater reliability and to compare and contrast as fairly as possible. Time will be given to answer questions from each candidate. If candidates have any additional questions, the training director is open to e-mails and phone calls to help provide as much clarity as possible.

Following the last scheduled applicant interview, the psychology staff will meet again with additional information gathered during the interviewing process and will rank order their respective candidates. 30% of the application score will be added to the total average interview score in order to create a rank order to submit for the match process. There will be no notification for candidates who are no longer under consideration.

The National Matching Services website will be available to enter rankings from January 15, 2024 until February 2, 2024. Lists must be submitted in accordance with yearly dates established by APPIC.

APPIC Match Day, Phase I is **February 16, 2024**, set yearly by APPIC. Following confirmation of match results, the Training Director will confirm the selection of interns by phone and letter to the applicant and the applicant's university training director. Selected interns will be asked to provide a written statement officially accepting and committing to the internship training program. At that time, interns and University Training Directors will be expected to assist in formalizing an affiliation with KCVA.

Commitment to Diversity

Diversity within the Kansas City VA Medical Center Psychology Training Program

The KCVA psychology training program is extremely committed to ongoing evaluation, development, and implementation of multicultural competencies for both trainees and training staff. We seek both staff and trainees who are strongly committed to and appreciative of all aspects of diversity and inclusion. Our aim is to create and foster a supportive and welcoming work and training environment for all. The training staff at KCVA believes that in order to do so, regular discussions and trainings focused on cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural knowledge, and cultural humility are paramount. The training program has also conducted a staff diversity survey as a method of continual self-study for psychologists and the psychology training program.

To help celebrate and further educate on important diversity issues, psychology interns will have the following opportunities:

- Multicultural outings/events are provided for psychology interns, fellows, and staff 2-3x/year. These are half-day events where we visit a local site that is related to multicultural issues (during non-pandemic times) and/or focus more in-depth on a chosen multicultural topic virtually. All

multicultural events will involve an open and candid discussion around cultural knowledge, cultural sensitivity, personal reactions, and/or how the information can be used to improve patient care.

- Monthly multicultural journal club discussions are held for psychology trainees and staff. One to two articles related to a multicultural topic are dispersed and discussed together. While several topics will change annually, the list of multicultural journal clubs from the prior year are provided below for reference examples.
 - Addressing Model in Palliative Care
 - Racial Trauma and Health Equity for Veterans
 - Cultural Considerations in Interpersonal Violence Treatment
 - Cultural Lens Approach for Cultural Validity of Psychological Theory
 - Psychotherapy and Supervision as Cultural Encounters: The MECA Model
 - Addressing Effects of Systemic Racism on Justice-Involved Individuals
 - Coin Model of Privilege & the Importance of Allyship
 - Addressing Client's Cultural Biases and Prejudices
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Leadership Coaching
 - Transgender and Gender Diverse Veterans' Access to Care
- Psychology interns have the opportunity to join and participate in our IDEA workgroup (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access). The workgroup meets monthly for 30 minutes and is instrumental in planning our multicultural outings and addressing any other diversity-focused areas relevant to psychology training.
- Interns will attend monthly psychology staff meetings, which asks for and presents a wide variety of cultural anniversaries, holidays, and celebrations occurring within each month.
- Mentorship is integrated in the KCVA training program, and interns have the opportunity to choose a mentor who expresses competence and willingness to mentor in specific diversity-related professional development concerns.
- Group supervision with interns and postdoctoral fellows will involve discussions around a wide variety of topics, including diversity-focused issues such as handling micro-aggressions from patients and/or staff, handling racist comments in therapy, using creative methods to bridge language barriers, and assessing for cultural needs with patients.

In addition to the extreme importance of learning and teaching about diversity issues, we also believe that learning how to implement that knowledge directly into clinical care is essential for developing into culturally competent and sensitive psychologists. Clinical opportunities for diversity-specific treatment through the KCVA psychology internship program are abundant throughout clinical rotations. Several specific examples include the following:

➤ Aging Populations/Generational Differences

Veterans of all adult ages are seen throughout all training rotations. Home-Based Primary Care and Primary Care – Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) typically serve our aging and older Veterans most consistently. Veterans served represent a wide variety of military eras. PC-MHI also serves the Post-deployment clinic.

➤ Housing Insecure Veterans

The KCVA provides services to numerous Veterans struggling with low socioeconomic status, housing insecurity, and/or homelessness. The SARRTP residential SUD treatment program, the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC), and the Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) programs particularly provide clinical training experiences with these diverse populations. The KCVA mental health department also includes the HUD program (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development). While the HUD program is not currently offered as a training rotation, there have been previous trainees who sought this training opportunity and was assisted in creating a minor rotation that was highly rewarding providing mental health support for Veteran's seeking stable housing. Additionally, the KCVA participates in "Stand Down" events 1-2x/year, where VA staff and volunteers provide food, clothing, health screenings, and mental health education and resources to homeless and at-risk Veterans. Previous trainees have highly enjoyed participating in the optional Stand Downs with their supervisors.

➤ Persons with Disabilities

There are numerous opportunities to work with Veterans with various physical disabilities, especially through the Integrated Pain Clinic, Home-Based Primary Care, and Primary Care – Mental Health Integration rotations. The Health Psychology Clinic within the Mental Health Clinic (MHC) provides groups for a number of medical conditions such as ALS, Parkinson's, or diabetes. Presurgical and transplant evaluations are also conducted through the MHC.

➤ Racial and Ethnic Diversity

There are multiple opportunities to work with people of color or people who represent ethnic minorities across all major rotations. Most experiences will come from specific rotation-focused care, case conceptualizations, and discussions with staff. For example, in the PTSD clinic (PCT), trainees focus on the impact of racial discrimination on the trauma experience, particularly for Black Veterans.

➤ Religious and Spiritual Considerations

All Veterans are asked about religious or spiritual orientation, beliefs, and/or preferences during biopsychosocial assessments, and trainees are highly encouraged to consider such beliefs when providing care across all rotations. The Integrated Pain Clinic (IPC) actively assesses for religious/spiritual functioning and spiritual distress as a standard part of their clinical interview. Religion and spirituality is also a major focus on the Inpatient Psychiatric rotation.

➤ Rural Veterans

In addition to the main hospital, the Kansas City VA serves several rural communities through Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). With the expansion of telehealth services to psychology trainees, there are now numerous opportunities to provide treatment to folks in rural and underserved areas. Several training staff are embedded in the rural CBOCs to consult with and help explore available resources in their area. Veterans living in rural areas are frequently treated in both the outpatient SUD (STOP) and residential SUD (SARRTP) programs, as well as within the Inpatient Psychiatry unit.

➤ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The KCVA is committed to providing affirming services to Veterans with sexual and/or gender minority identities. Individuals with sexual and gender minority identities are seen in all clinics. The Mental Health Clinic offers a Transgender Support and Education group, conducts mental health evaluations for gender dysphoria for the purposes of hormone therapy and/or gender affirming surgery, and has several providers specifically trained in providing LBGTQ+ Affirming care. The PTSD clinic (PCT) provides experiences and case conceptualizations focused around the impact of sexual trauma on sexual identity (sexual orientation and avoidance or/experience of sexual intimacy).

➤ Women Veterans

Women Veterans is an ever increasing area of focus in the VA, and will be seen throughout all clinical rotations. The PC-MHI rotation works closely with and receives regular referrals from the Women's Health Clinic in the Honor Annex. At times of high census, the outpatient SUD clinic (STOP) provides group therapy specific for women Veterans in recovery.

Diversity within the Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer and follows all EEOC policies on fair recruitment and other personnel practices. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, transgender status, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. The EEOC provides leadership and guidance to federal agencies on all aspects of the federal government's equal employment opportunity program.

The VA's Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion (ORMDI) publishes a monthly Diversity and Inclusion newsletter. Diversity@Work is part of VA's ongoing effort to increase awareness of diversity and to promote a flexible and inclusive work environment.

Diversity within the Kansas City VA Medical Center

The Kansas City VA Medical Center highly supports and makes efforts to recruit and retain trainees and employees of minority backgrounds. In the past year, the hospital has engaged in the following actions to demonstrate our commitment to diversity:

- Courageous Conversations (optional monthly discussions as a tool to build cultural competency, have safe conversations about race, and promote empathy and humility)
- Monthly emails from the KCVA hospital director and leadership on Diversity and Inclusion, such as sharing information about important cultural anniversaries of significant events
- Cultural Topics included in Kansas City VAMC Daily Message email
- Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) have been appointed, serve on the facility Diversity and Inclusion Committee, hold quarterly diversity forums, and have been provided additional resources. Currently, the hospital has the following SEPMs:
 - African American Employment Program Manager
 - Federal Women's Program Manager
 - Asian American and Pacific Islander Employment Program Manager
 - LGBT Employment Program Manager
 - Hispanic Employment Program Manager
 - Individual with Disabilities Program Manager
 - American Indian and Alaska Native Employment Program Manager
 - South Asian American Program Manager
 - Middle Eastern and North African Descent American Program Manager
- Candid discussions from hospital leadership about their personal experiences being a person of color and/or minority
- Encourages staff at both the hospital and clinic level to discuss diversity issues, such as the murder of George Floyd and the impact on both staff and patient care
- Leadership supports time off for multicultural trainings
- Monthly special emphasis observances to educate, remind, and breakdown stereotypes:
 - January – Dr. King's Birthday
 - February – Black History Month
 - March – Women's History Month
 - April – National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
 - May – Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month
 - June – LGBT Month
 - June - Juneteenth
 - August 26th – Women's Equality Day
 - September 15th – October 15th – Hispanic Heritage Month
 - October – Disability Awareness Month
 - November – Native American Heritage Month

Kansas City VA 2021 Statistics

	Female	Male	Total	
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE	21	216	237	1%
ASIAN	30	128	158	0%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	731	5486	6217	15%
DECLINED TO ANSWER	78	548	626	1%
MULTIPLE	53	283	336	1%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	39	169	208	0%
UNKNOWN	1330	2852	4182	10%
WHITE	2479	28195	30674	72%
TOTALS	4761	37877	42638	
	11%	89%	100%	

KCVAMC Psychology Setting

The Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVAMC) is a general medical, surgical, psychiatric, and ambulatory care facility located on a 37-acre site just six miles from downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The Medical Center places special emphasis on maintaining its role as a major teaching hospital. Training programs in virtually all medical and associated health specialties are offered through affiliation with many universities throughout the country. The primary medical school affiliation is with the University of Kansas Medical Center. Numerous other university affiliations provide for the training of social workers, audiologists, dentists, occupational and physical therapists, chaplains, recreational therapists, pharmacists, etc.

Mental Health At The KCVA

Mental Health is composed of psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed therapists, social workers, nurses, pharmacists, addiction therapists, and medical administration staff. Mental Health serves a culturally diverse group of young, middle-aged, and older adults who have a broad range of mental health diagnoses. In the Mental Health Clinic, Veterans can be assigned a treatment team, comprised of a full array of mental health professionals, that is responsible for coordinating all aspects of mental health care required to meet patients' needs. Many other specialty mental health treatment components are available to fully assist the patient in his/her recovery. The other Mental Health Programs that are available include: 1) Acute Inpatient Psychiatry, 2) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT), 3) Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC), 4) Substance Use Disorder Treatment (includes the SUD Residential and SUD Outpatient Treatment Program), 5) Compensated Work Therapy, 6) Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), 7) Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and 8) Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV). Numerous services are performed by psychologists in various roles and programs, and most are available as primary or secondary rotations for post-doctoral interns.

Psychologists are also working in other service lines in the medical center, including Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) and Primary Care, such as Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), Integrated Pain Clinic (IPC) and Whole Health.

Training Model and Program Philosophy

Clinical Psychology Internship Training Program Description Training Philosophy and Model

The primary purpose of the psychology internship program is to provide an emphasis on both breadth and intensity of training that allows interns to have a solid, well-rounded training experience. Our focus is on helping interns better learn to understand and assist individuals who are experiencing significant psychological problems. Additionally, the experiences provided in our program require a broad array of clinical skills that are important in helping individuals in many different settings outside of a VA Medical Center.

The philosophy of training at KCVA is best described as a "scholar-practitioner" model. The training experiences have a strong clinical focus. Knowledge and use of empirically supported processes and interventions and models of evidence-based practice are expected and encouraged in all aspects of the program. The training program at the Kansas City VA Medical Center is a generalist program that provides all trainees the opportunity to work closely with a diverse patient population under supervision of a psychology staff with a broad range of interest and expertise. One of the goals of this internship is to provide the necessary skill set that will enable the intern to function effectively in a professional role in a variety of employment settings.

We also value a developmental approach to training in which tasks of increasing difficulty and complexity are given to interns throughout the course of their internship as they demonstrate their ability and readiness to take on new responsibilities. Supervision is expected to match the needs of the intern in a way that facilitates professional development and progression. Thus, the intensity of supervision diminishes over the course of the rotation and internship as the intern matures into a role approaching colleague rather than student. By the internship's end, we expect to play more of a consultant role for the interns, rather than that of a supervisor monitoring every decision and move. Continued professional growth is fostered through ongoing examination of current research to inform clinical practice and through encouraging interns to learn and utilize treatments that he or she may not have been exposed to in the past. Supervision will also generally be matched to the needs of the intern and the intensity of this supervision is expected to diminish as the intern transitions into the role of a psychologist.

A special focus of our internship is fostering the growth and integration of interns' personal and professional identities. We emphasize the need for balance in our lives. This results in our insistence on a 40-hour work week and encouraging our interns to pursue interests outside of psychology, such as recreation, exercise, family, and friendships. Professional identity development, especially in the areas of employment location and selection, is assisted by seminars about job searches, licensure, program development, mental health administration, and supervision. Additionally, the Director of Training spends significant time with the interns, both individually and as a group, encouraging and facilitating completion of the dissertation, exploring possible career paths, and assisting in conducting appropriate, timely and successful job searches. In addition, psychology staff are very open to providing informal assistance in these areas. Finally, the atmosphere in Mental Health at KCVA is quite collegial. We value our interns highly, appreciating them both as professional colleagues and as fellow human beings.

KCVA provides services to diverse populations and strives to create a therapeutic environment for, and ensure ethical treatment of, patients with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. Thus, an important goal of the psychology training program is to increase trainees' knowledge and skills in working with a wide range of clients from different cultural backgrounds.

Training Competencies and Objectives

The internship training program at KCVA aims to provide a generalist training experience that prepares interns for practice at the entry level. Interns must demonstrate competence in nine profession-wide competencies: A. Research, B. Ethical and Legal Standards, C. Individual and Cultural Diversity, D. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors, E. Communication and Interpersonal Skills, F. Assessment, G. Intervention, H. Supervision, and I. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills. These competencies, as well as how each is measured, is described in detail below.

A. Research

1. Intern will integrate current research and literature into clinical practice
2. Intern will demonstrate critical thinking skills when presenting/discussing research relevant to clinical practice

B. Ethical and Legal Standards

1. Intern will demonstrate knowledge of the current version of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and will consistently apply them appropriately, seeking consultation as needed.
2. Intern will demonstrate an awareness of all regulations, relevant laws, rules, and policies governing health service psychology at the organizational, local, state, regional, and federal levels.
3. Intern will demonstrate awareness of how the above impact his/her professional work, including patients' rights, release of information procedures, informed consent to treatment, limits to confidentiality in VA, management of suicidal/homicidal behavior, and child/elder abuse reporting policies.
4. Intern will be able to recognize ethical dilemmas as they arise and apply ethical decision-making processes in order to resolve the dilemmas.
5. Intern will conduct him-/herself in an ethical manner in all professional activities.

C. Individual and Cultural Diversity

1. Intern will be able to recognize and therapeutically address cultural and/or individual differences particular to him-/herself that might impact how he/she understand and interact with patients and staff different from him-/herself.
2. Intern will be able to recognize and therapeutically address pertinent cultural, and/or individual differences specific to the patient's background that might impact the presenting problem, diagnosis, or patient's ability to effectively engage in the therapeutic relationship or process.
3. Intern will be able to recognize potential cultural themes and sensitivities pertinent to the particular populations of focus (i.e., Veterans, older adults, rural, LGBTQ, etc.).
4. Intern will demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and approach to working effectively with a range of diverse individuals in clinical practice (i.e., assessment, case conceptualization, treatment plan, & intervention).

D. Professional Values, Attitudes, and Behaviors

1. Intern demonstrates a receptivity to supervision and life-long learning.
2. Intern is well prepared for supervisory meetings and will use supervision effectively.
3. Intern maintains professional boundaries.
4. Intern demonstrates awareness of own competence and limitations
5. Intern recognizes how personal characteristics impact clinical work.
6. Intern demonstrates concern for the welfare and general well-being of others.
7. Intern possesses an appropriate level of confidence.
8. Intern manages all assigned workload within the given timeframes without sacrificing quality of work.
9. Intern demonstrates accountability, dependability, and responsibility.
10. Intern takes initiative.

E. Communication and Interpersonal Skills

1. Intern communicates with patients and families in a manner that is clear and understandable by them.
2. Intern communicates psychological information to other professionals in a manner that is organized and understandable to them.
3. Interns written documentation demonstrates a thorough grasp of professional language and concepts.
4. Intern demonstrates effective interpersonal skills and the ability to manage difficult communications well.

F. Assessment

1. Diagnostic interviewing skills
2. Differential diagnostic skills and knowledge of DSM-5
3. Clarification of referral question and appropriate selection of assessment approaches
4. Administration and scoring of psychological tests
5. Intern demonstrates accurate interpretation and conceptualization of assessment results based on integration of clinical interview, chart review, and testing data.
6. Intern's organization, integration, and conciseness of reports
7. Intern formulates well conceptualized recommendations.
8. Intern demonstrates awareness of and adherence to APA ethical guidelines and ethics in assessment.
9. Intern demonstrates sensitivity to issues of diversity and individual differences in assessments.

G. Intervention

1. Intern establishes and documents therapy goals and development of a treatment plan, patient progress, outcomes, and termination.
2. Intern formulates a useful case conceptualization from a theoretical perspective.
3. Intern establishes and maintains an effective therapeutic alliance.
4. Intern demonstrates effective and flexible application of therapeutic strategies. Intern also responds appropriately to patient crisis when it is appropriate.
5. Intern maintains personal boundaries with awareness of personal issues.
6. Intern is sensitive to issues of diversity and individual differences in treatment.
7. Intern uses clinical communication skills and effective structure to improve group functioning.
8. Intern creates a safe environment to promote group cohesion and manages group process/conflict effectively.

H. Supervision

1. Intern demonstrates knowledge of theory and scientific literature in supervision.
2. Intern works well with resistance, boundary issues, and cultural awareness while providing supervision as observed in role-playing exercises.
3. Intern provides constructive feedback.

I. Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary Skills

1. Intern effectively and independently consults with psychologists and professional from other disciplines in the care of their patients.
2. Intern demonstrates knowledge of and respect for the unique roles of other professionals in a collaborative treatment approach.
3. Intern demonstrates timely communication of assessment and intervention results to team, referral source, patient and/or family in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the maintenance of health and the treatment of mental health condition.
4. Intern effectively understand principles of team dynamics, and apply interdisciplinary facilitation skills, in various team roles to plan and deliver patient/population-centered care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective and equitable.

Evaluations

Evaluations will be completed by supervisors in the competency areas that are relevant to their specific rotation at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months. The competency ratings are based upon how much supervision is required by the intern to perform the task competently, as well as intern performance. Our evaluation procedure involves the completion of a formal evaluation for each separate rotation, as well as a meeting with current supervisors where feedback about progress is shared verbally so that the intern and all supervisors are aware of the current progress. The intern is also given the opportunity to provide verbal feedback, and time is taken to check in on progress made towards the intern's identified training goals.

At the beginning of each rotation, the supervisor is to review the evaluation form with the intern, clarifying expectations for workload and planned rotation activities. *At mid-rotation*, the supervisor is to use the evaluation form as a guide to feedback regarding performance towards attainment of competency goals and areas for development. *At the conclusion of the rotation*, the supervisor is to review this evaluation with the intern.

Rating Scale

- 1 Intern is unable to perform this skill even with close supervision. Competency for this skill is at beginning practicum level and a Performance Improvement Plan is necessary.
 - 2 Intern is able to perform this skill only with moderate supervision. Competency for this skill is at the level expected at the entry of a rotation for an Intern. A Performance Improvement Plan may be necessary.
 - 3 Intern independently performs this skill in typical cases with occasional consultation. Intern requires closer supervision in more complex or unusual cases. Competency for this skill is at the level beyond the start of the internship training year but below that expected at the conclusion of the internship year. This is the level expected on all skills by conclusion of the first rotation.
 - 4 Intern independently performs this skill in both typical and more complex situations with occasional consultation. Competency for this skill is at the level expected at the conclusion of the training year or end of rotation (expected intern exit level).
- N/O No opportunity to observe this skill.

Evidence (used to determine rating on each competency)

- Direct Observation (including co-facilitation of clinical intervention)
- Review of Audio Recordings
- Discussion in Individual Supervision

Minimum Levels of Achievement on Evaluations

By 6-month Evaluation: At the mid-point of a major rotation and end of the first minor, the intern must achieve ratings of "3" or higher on ALL BOLDED competency items in all competency categories. The intern may receive scores of "2" on no more than 4 of the NON-BOLDED competency items across all competency categories.

A meeting between the training director and rotation supervisor(s) will occur to determine if a Performance Improvement Plan will be implemented and/or if you are not ready to change rotations when any of the following occur:

- 1) An intern receives a score of "2" or "1" on a bolded competency item, OR
- 2) An intern receives more than four scores of "2" on non-bolded competency items, OR

3) An intern receives a score of "1" on any item.

By 12-month Evaluation: By the conclusion of the training year, an intern must achieve a rating of "4" for ALL BOLDED competency skills in all competency categories, indicating that the intern has demonstrated competency for these skills at the level expected at the conclusion of the internship training year. The intern may receive scores of "3" on no more than 4 of the NON-BOLDED competency items across all competency categories.

An intern will not achieve successful completion of internship training when any of the following occur at the 12-month evaluation:

- 1) An intern receives a score of "3" or less on a bolded competency item, OR
- 2) An intern receives more than four scores of "3" on non-bolded competency items, OR
- 3) An intern receives a score of "2" or "1" on any item.

Structure of Internship Program

The emphasis of the psychology internship training program is general mental health, with major rotation options covering areas related to the treatment of general outpatient mental health treatment, health psychology, serious mental illness, and neuropsychology. Minor rotations are available in various areas, as listed below. Many of the major rotation options, if not chosen as a major, can also be included as a minor option choice.

Major Rotations

Each intern will complete a rotation in the Mental Health Clinic (MHC) for one day each week over the entire training year. The supervisor on the MHC rotation would be considered your primary supervisor, and they would provide a minimum of one hour of individual supervision/week.

Each intern will also choose two additional major rotation options: one for the first 6 months and one for the second 6 months. These rotations will be for 16 hours. Each major rotation supervisor will provide a minimum of one hour of individual supervision/week. Interns will submit a ranked order of rotation preferences during orientation week. We will do our best to accommodate all of the top choices and will guarantee at least one of your top three choices.

Barring any unforeseen staffing changes, the following rotations will be offered for selection for the major rotation options:

- Health Psychology Options (2 full days/week for 6 months)
 - Mental Health Integration-Oncology
 - Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)
 - Whole Health Behavioral Medicine
- Serious Mental Illness Options (2 full days/week for 6 months)
 - Acute Inpatient Psychiatry
 - Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)
 - Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)
- Neuropsychology (2 full days/week for 6 months)

Major Rotation Descriptions

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC ROTATION

- **Mental Health Clinic**

This required major rotation in the Mental Health Clinic will be one day each week for the entire training year. It provides the opportunity to function as part of a multidisciplinary team including, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and nurses. The focus of the rotation is individual and group psychotherapy. There are a wide range of patient presenting concerns, including but not limited to treatment for PTSD, depression, anxiety, grief, anger, substance use disorders, personality disorders, and adjustment to illness, divorce, or other stressors. Evidence-based practice is emphasized in training and delivery of group and individual interventions, with specific training opportunities in evidence-based psychotherapy modalities. Interns will have the opportunity to co-facilitate evidence-based psychotherapy groups with licensed psychologists. Consultation may be provided to other clinic providers regarding the appropriateness of individual therapy, as interns participate in interdisciplinary team meetings. There are up to 5 supervising psychologists in the Mental Health Clinic (MHC). Interns benefit from the expertise of staff in differing theoretical orientations and clinical approaches. The intern will have a primary MHC supervisor who provides a minimum of one hour of face-to-face supervision weekly.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY ROTATIONS

- **Mental Health Integration-Oncology**

This rotation is offered as a major rotation for the 2023-2024 internship year. The service is embedded in the hematology, oncology, and primary care clinics. Interns will have the opportunity to provide oncology-specialty evidence based psychological services to medically complex patients. Services include psychological assessment, short-term individual psychotherapy, assessment, and psycho-educational groups. Interns may engage in interdisciplinary work by attending staff meetings and huddles.

- **Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)**

PC-MHI is embedded within the primary care clinic in order to provide interdisciplinary and comprehensive treatment to Veterans in primary care. The intern will work alongside the PC-MHI psychologist in an apprenticeship model: 1) focus on triaging mental health, 2) delivering brief and targeted interventions, and 3) behavioral interventions for healthier lifestyles (e.g., smoking cessation, weight loss, etc.). Interns will use assessments to facilitate measurement-based care. In the PC-MHI program, interns will gain experience using functional assessments within a 30-minute session and providing brief intervention within that 30-minute framework. Interns will learn to receive warm-handoffs and to provide timely, accurate feedback to primary care teams, collaborating with an integrated team and providing consultation.

- **Whole Health Behavioral Medicine**

This rotation offers clinical experiences focusing on the facilitation of health behavior change, coping with medical conditions, and improving overall well-being. Interns can gain experience using Motivational Interviewing, CBT, and ACT principals, as well as teaching stress management skills. Interns will have the opportunity to lead groups focused on meditation (mindfulness and guided imagery), weight management, tobacco cessation, and sleep. Interns can also work individually with Veterans providing brief interventions to improve health behaviors and coping skills. Other opportunities may also be available, including providing biofeedback and participating in provider education sessions for Motivational Interviewing and coaching skills.

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS ROTATIONS

- **Acute Inpatient Psychiatry**

In this rotation, interns will gain experience working on an acute inpatient psychiatric unit as part of a multidisciplinary team consisting of psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, peer support, recreation therapy, addiction therapy and chaplaincy. The acute inpatient psychiatric unit houses up to 26 Veterans with a variety of diagnoses. Veterans on the acute inpatient unit are hospitalized for SUD/AUD detox,

suicidality and serious and persistent mental illness. The average length of stay is roughly 5-7 days. Interns will learn how the recovery model guides the interventions and overall milieu of the inpatient unit. Interns will have the opportunity to facilitate/co-facilitate group therapy with a variety of different disciplines, provide brief individual therapy and/or conduct psychological evaluations. Interns receive at least one hour of supervision weekly with the inpatient psychologist. Interns will spend two days over one 6-month semester on the acute inpatient unit.

- **Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)**

In this rotation, interns develop skills in working with Veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness in an outpatient setting, providing groups, individual recovery coaching, individual therapy if indicated, biopsychosocial assessments, suicide risk assessments, measurement-based care assessments, program evaluation questionnaires, and recovery treatment plans. The intern may provide groups including Illness Management and Recovery, Social Skills Training, CBT for Psychosis, CBT, Whole Health, coping skills, or other areas of interest that are appropriate for this population.

- **Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)**

In this program, a multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive, community-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support to Veterans with severe and persistent mental illness. MHICM program goals include increasing Veterans' quality of life and decreasing need for inpatient psychiatric treatment. MHICM follows the VA's modified version of Assertive Community Treatment, an evidence-based practice. The MHICM team is comprised of a psychologist, social workers, nurses, and psychiatrist, most of whom serve as case managers. MHICM interventions are varied, tailored to each Veteran's needs, and include activities such medication management, encouraging compliance with treatment, assistance in learning daily living skills, assistance with housing and benefits issues, transportation, coordination with Veterans' families and other supportive resources, and coordination of care.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ROTATION

- **Neuropsychology Evaluations**

The Neuropsychology intern will conduct comprehensive neuropsychological assessments with a broad range of patient populations, including referrals related to neurodegenerative diseases, cerebrovascular disease, traumatic brain injury, cancer, epilepsy/seizure, and cognitive dysfunction secondary to other medical or psychiatric conditions. Referrals to Neuropsychology at the KCVA come from various services throughout the medical center, including Neurology, Primary Care, and Mental Health. Interns will conduct approximately two comprehensive neuropsychological assessments per month, carrying each case through chart review, construction of the test battery, testing, scoring, interpretation, report writing, and feedback session. Training will focus on using the research literature and psychometric theory to make logical, evidence-based clinical conclusions. Training will also emphasize the importance of providing detailed recommendations focused on evidence-based interventions, including compensatory strategies for deficits and accentuation of strengths that can be utilized by the Veteran, caregivers, and the treatment team. Interns will participate in feedback sessions and provide evidence-based psychoeducational interventions as appropriate.

Minor Rotations

Each intern will select two minor rotation options, each consisting of 4 hours/week: one for the first 6 months and one for the second 6 months. Each minor rotation will provide individual supervision for at least 30 minutes/week.

Barring any unforeseen staffing changes, the following rotations will be offered for selection for the minor rotation options:

- Intern Created Minor (2nd 6 months)
- Acute Inpatient Psychiatry
- Administrative/Leadership (2nd 6 months)

- Integrated Pain Clinic (2nd 6 months)
- Mental Health Integration Oncology
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)
- Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)
- Substance use disorder Treatment Outpatient Program (STOP)
- Whole Health

Minor Rotation Descriptions

- Intern Created Minor Rotation - Based on Personal Training Goals

In collaboration with the Training Director and an identified supervising Staff Psychologist, the interns can request to create a minor rotation to fit their training needs/desires, separate from the established minor rotation offerings below. While we cannot guarantee that all trainee created minors will be possible, we will do our very best to accommodate (generally based on staff availability). Trainee created minors are recommended for the second 6 months of internship in order to provide time to make arrangements for the minor rotation.

- Acute Inpatient Psychiatry

In this rotation, interns will gain experience working on an acute inpatient psychiatric unit as part of a multidisciplinary team consisting of psychiatry, nursing, social work, psychology, peer support, recreation therapy, addiction therapy and chaplaincy. The acute inpatient psychiatric unit houses up to 26 Veterans with a variety of diagnoses. Veterans on the acute inpatient unit are hospitalized for SUD/AUD detox, suicidality and serious and persistent mental illness. The average length of stay is roughly 5-7 days. Interns will learn how the recovery model guides the interventions and overall milieu of the inpatient unit. Interns will have the opportunity to facilitate/co-facilitate group therapy with a variety of different disciplines, provide brief individual therapy and/or conduct psychological evaluations.

- Administrative/Leadership (*second six months only*)

The KCVA Administrative and Leadership Minor rotation is designed to provide psychology interns with greater exposure to the operations of Mental Health services at the local level with enhanced exposure to national initiatives and staff when available. This rotation provides interested psychology trainees with the opportunity to learn about and actively engage in program development, oversight and evaluation. Moreover, psychology trainees will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the activities of leadership staff to better understand health care at the macro level. Finally, this rotation is designed to provide potential methods of preparing for leadership opportunities in areas of clinical health care administration.

- Integrated Pain Clinic (*second six months only*)

This rotation has exposure to CBT-CP, CBT-I, and ACT. Initial rotation involvement is a structured 8-week group protocol, a biopsychosocial approach, for various chronic pain-related self-management goals; mindfulness/relaxation, anger management, physical pacing/activation, insomnia, engagement in pleasurable activities, and goal formation theory. The intern will then deliver this framework to the individual clinic to formulate customized treatment plans within an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental context. Additional IPC experiences can include biofeedback, program development, program improvement research, and interdisciplinary treatment planning.

- Mental Health Integration-Oncology

This rotation is offered as a minor rotation for the 2023-2024 internship year. The service is embedded in the hematology, oncology, and primary care clinics. Interns will have the opportunity to provide oncology-specialty evidence based psychological services to medically complex patients. Services include psychological assessment, short-term individual psychotherapy, assessment, and psycho-educational groups. Interns may engage in interdisciplinary work by attending staff meetings and huddles.

- **Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)**

In this program, a multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive, community-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support to Veterans with severe and persistent mental illness. MHICM program goals include increasing Veterans' quality of life and decreasing need for inpatient psychiatric treatment. MHICM follows the VA's modified version of Assertive Community Treatment, an evidence-based practice. The MHICM team is comprised of a psychologist, social workers, nurses, and psychiatrist, most of whom serve as case managers. MHICM interventions are varied, tailored to each Veteran's needs, and include activities such as medication management, encouraging compliance with treatment, assistance in learning daily living skills, assistance with housing and benefits issues, transportation, coordination with Veterans' families and other supportive resources, and coordination of care.

- **Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI)**

PC-MHI is embedded within the primary care clinic in order to provide interdisciplinary and comprehensive treatment to Veterans in primary care. The intern will work alongside the PC-MHI psychologist in an apprenticeship model: 1) focus on triaging mental health, 2) delivering brief and targeted interventions, and 3) behavioral interventions for healthier lifestyles (e.g., smoking cessation, weight loss, etc.). Interns will use assessments to facilitate measurement-based care. In the PC-MHI program, interns will gain experience using functional assessments within a 30-minute session and providing brief intervention within that 30-minute framework. Interns will learn to receive warm-handoffs and to provide timely, accurate feedback to primary care teams, collaborating with an integrated team and providing consultation.

- **Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)**

In this rotation, interns develop skills in working with Veterans diagnosed with serious mental illness in an outpatient setting, providing groups, individual recovery coaching, individual therapy if indicated, biopsychosocial assessments, suicide risk assessments, measurement-based care assessments, program evaluation questionnaires, and recovery treatment plans. The intern may provide groups including Illness Management and Recovery, Social Skills Training, CBT for Psychosis, CBT, Whole Health, coping skills, or other areas of interest that are appropriate for this population.

- **Substance use disorder Treatment Outpatient Program (STOP)**

This rotation focuses on providing evidence-based individual and/or group therapy for Veterans struggling with substance use disorders on an outpatient basis. The STOP clinic focuses on providing treatment for both complete abstinence and harm-reduction goals. Individual therapy would largely focus on providing Motivational Interviewing (MI), Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), and/or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (CBT-SUD). There may be opportunities to provide additional dual-diagnosis therapy for interns with previous experience focused on SUD treatment. There is also an option to provide virtual group therapy focused on treating dual diagnosis patients with emotional-related diagnoses and substance use disorders. There may also be options for exposure working with residential (SARRTP) patients, if highly desired by the intern.

- **Whole Health Behavioral Medicine**

This rotation offers clinical experiences focusing on the facilitation of health behavior change, coping with medical conditions, and improving overall well-being. Interns can gain experience using Motivational Interviewing, CBT, and ACT principals, as well as teaching stress management skills. Interns will have the opportunity to lead groups focused on meditation (mindfulness and guided imagery), weight management, tobacco cessation, and sleep. Interns can also work individually with Veterans providing brief interventions to improve health behaviors and coping skills. Other opportunities may also be available, including providing biofeedback and participating in provider education sessions for Motivational Interviewing and coaching skills. Opportunities for certain rotation experiences may vary depending on the day/time chosen for the minor.

Assessment

All interns will participate in a half-day assessment rotation throughout the training year. This rotation will emphasize personality, psychodiagnostic, and pre-surgical evaluation assessments, with focus on comprehensive testing batteries that include clinical interview, intellectual and cognitive screening, various personality measures, and other screening measures as needed. The interns will receive practical and didactic training on specific instruments, including the MMPI-2/2-RF, MCMI-IV, PAI, and additional screeners. This rotation will include weekly supervision (typically provided in a group supervision format with the other interns) that will at times be focused on didactic instruction for administering the various assessments provided through the Mental Health Clinic. Interns will complete 10 assessments throughout their training year, with opportunities to complete more than this based on trainee interest.

Other Training Requirements

- **Case Presentations**

Psychology interns at the Kansas City VA Medical Center are asked to present two case conference presentations throughout the training year – one focused on a therapy case and one focused on an assessment case. All psychology staff and trainees are invited to attend each of these presentations, which occur during the monthly case consultation meetings. Interns will work with their rotation supervisor(s) to help choose an appropriate case to present. The direct supervisor of this case will complete an evaluation form for each presentation with feedback gathered from all present staff. This evaluation is used to help further determine strengths and areas of growth for the intern. The minimum level of achievement is to complete both presentations. Interns will submit a copy of their presentation materials to the training director to save in their binders. Further guidelines on the presentations will be provided separately.

- **Process Improvement Project**

The VA emphasizes being a High Reliability Organization (HRO), which focuses on creating a culture of safety for Veterans and employees while providing excellent customer service. The three pillars of HRO are 1) Leadership Commitment; 2) Culture of Safety; 3) Continuous Process Improvement. Psychologists are recommended to continuously practice the HRO values and principles. As part of professional development as a psychologist, interns will be asked to choose a process improvement project to focus on over the course of the training year. The topic/area of focus for the project is chosen by the intern. The intern will request a mentor to oversee this project and provide guidance. Incorporating updated research into the project is highly recommended.

Ideas for projects could begin with the following considerations:

- Is there a treatment or assessment we are not providing that could be beneficial to Veterans?
- Are there barriers to treatment and/or observed problems that could be realistically improved?
- Are there methods to improve the effectiveness of any aspect of the work done by mental health staff?
- Could a service that is already being provided be further assessed to determine efficacy in order to improve the quality of that service?

Examples of projects completed by former interns and postdoctoral fellows:

- ✓ Evaluation of a newly created Grief group through the MHC
- ✓ Integrating and assessing a motivational enhancement component into the Substance Abuse Residential Recovery Treatment Program
- ✓ Development and evaluation of a new Guided Imagery Group in Whole Health
- ✓ Developing, conducting and evaluating a stress management program for the Kansas City VA employees
- ✓ Evaluated short-term and longer-term effectiveness of Sounder Sleep Workshop in Whole Health
- ✓ Conducted a program evaluation of the smoking cessation program
- ✓ Created a monthly supervision didactic training series for staff and trainees
- ✓ Implemented a CBT-I group for patients in the STOP clinic
- ✓ Evaluated the internship application review process

- ✓ Evaluated and proposed a more efficient schedule for conducting home visits in MHICM
- ✓ Created and provided a treatment protocol for sexual dysfunction with Veterans
- ✓ Updated and expanded the Psychology Computer Guide for both trainees and new staff

Interns will provide a presentation on their completed projects near the end of the training year. The project and presentation will not be formally evaluated, but interns may receive feedback from staff in attendance. The minimum level of achievement is to complete a process improvement project and the presentation. Interns will submit a copy of their presentation materials to the training director to save in their binders.

- **Dissertation/Dissertation Equivalency Project Presentation**

Interns are asked to present information related to their dissertation during one of the weekly didactic training seminars. There is no specific format required and it is not evaluated. Any presentation materials used should be submitted to the training director in order to add to your training binder.

Other Structured Learning Activities

- **Didactic Training Seminars**

Psychology interns are required to participate in weekly didactics on Thursdays at 1400. A schedule for these presentations will be provided during orientation week and may be adjusted as the training year progresses, if needed. In addition to the scheduled weekly didactic series, interns will participate in the expanded 2-3 day trainings on evidence-based treatments.

- **Supervision Concentration**

The Supervision Concentration is a yearlong, experiential, group training in the provision of supervision. This concentration will begin in didactic/discussion format, in which interns will review topics related to clinical supervision including: multiculturalism and diversity in clinical supervision, strength-based, theoretical-based, and competency-based approaches, skills in giving and receiving feedback, how to approach difficult conversations, modeling, the role and responsibility of power in supervision, boundaries in supervision, and the importance of the supervisory relationship. After establishing a foundation in the theory and practice of supervision, interns will have the opportunity to provide supervision to psychology externs. Supervision sessions between the intern and extern will be video recorded and reviewed, and interns will be provided feedback on their supervision skills. The Supervision Concentration is non-evaluative, meaning it will not be included in formal evaluation or rating of internship performance. This is done in an effort to increase a sense of safety while learning the highly valuable skills involved in clinical supervision.

- **Multicultural Journal Club**

This monthly meeting takes place the fourth Thursday of each month from 1500-1600. Psychology interns and fellows are required to participate in the monthly multicultural journal discussion facilitated by a staff member. As much as possible, trainees will receive the materials to be used in discussion prior to the meeting. Trainees are expected to review these materials prior to the meeting, whenever possible. These materials and meetings are aimed at helping facilitate discussion about multicultural issues in clinical practice.

- **Psychology Staff Meeting**

This is a monthly meeting that takes place the second Thursday of each month from 1500-1600. This meeting is facilitated by the Psychology Executive and involves presentation and discussion of information of general interest to the psychology staff. All trainees are expected to attend this meeting.

- **Monthly Training Meeting**

This monthly meeting takes place the third Thursday of each month from 1500-1600. This is a monthly meeting where the Director(s) of Psychology Training, as well as all training staff, discuss issues directly related to the training program. All interns are expected to attend the majority of this meeting; however, the last portion of the meeting is saved for discussion of trainee progress; trainees are excused at that time.

Trainees will be asked to choose a spokesperson to present feedback to the psychology staff in a more anonymous fashion.

- **Psychology Consultation/EBP Meeting**

This monthly meeting takes place the first Thursday of each month from 1500-1600. The meeting is generally facilitated by the EBP coordinator or the Psychology Executive. Psychology staff and trainees meet to discuss specific cases, both psychotherapy and assessment, and provide feedback/consultation. This includes formal case presentations for interns (2 per intern for the year), as well as a goal directed informal case consultation requirement for the postdoctoral fellows (1 per postdoc for the year). Trainees have the opportunity to participate in these discussions, as well as listen to how staff discuss difficult cases and model consultation. Specifics about the VA EBP Program are also discussed here, as appropriate.

- **Group Supervision with the Training Director**

The Training Director meets with interns and postdoctoral fellows weekly, or more often if needed, for group supervision in order to assure the smooth operation of the training program, to assist the trainees with any programmatic difficulties or questions, and to provide guidance towards clinical and professional development. Interns are highly encouraged to suggest topics of interest to help fill in any gaps in training received through clinical rotations.

- **Peer Supervision**

Time will be provided each week for peer supervision to help connect as a cohort, learn from each other, and provide/receive additional support from your peers. 30 minutes will be allocated for just the interns, and an additional 30 minutes will be allocated for the combined interns and postdoctoral fellows.

- **Co-Therapy with Staff Psychologists**

Interns have opportunities to co-facilitate group psychotherapy with staff psychologists.

**Other structured learning activities may be built into the training program over the course of the training year.

Sample Internship Schedule for 2024-2025					
<i>(Actual days of rotations may vary based on clinic availability)</i>					
First 6 months					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-12:00	Mental Health Clinic	Major 1	Major 1	Minor Rotation 1	Assessment
12:00-12:30				Lunch	Lunch
12:30-13:00				Admin time	Admin time
13:00-14:00				Supervision Didactics	
14:00-15:00				Didactics	Group Supervision
15:00-16:00				Psychology Meetings	Peer Supervision
16:00-16:30				Admin time/ Meetings	Admin time

Second 6 months					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-12:00	Mental Health Clinic	Major 2	Major 2	Minor Rotation 2	Assessment
12:00-12:30				Lunch	Lunch
12:30-13:00				Admin time	Admin time
13:00-14:00				Supervision Didactics	
14:00-15:00				Didactics	Group Supervision
15:00-16:00				Psychology Meetings	Peer Supervision
16:00-16:30				Admin time/ Meetings	Admin time

Evidence-Based Trainings

Throughout the training year, interns will be offered expanded didactic trainings (some multi-day workshops) to gain and/or strengthen competence in evidence-based treatments. The following are planned for the 2024-2025 training year:

1. Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE)
2. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I)
3. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP)
4. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D)

Additional individual training in specific evidence-based treatments may be available upon request based on supervisor experience and approval.

Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program at the Kansas City VA Medical Center is designed to augment an intern's experience by providing an additional opportunity for support and professional development. Mentorship differs from supervision in several important ways. First, mentorship is intended to be non-evaluative. This has the benefits of ensuring a safe environment in which to explore personal concerns and allowing trainees to learn from staff members with whom they would not otherwise interact. Second, mentorship provides the

opportunity to explore areas of professional development that are not directly related to a specific practice area. These may include culture, gender, parenthood, religion and spirituality, and self-care, among others.

Mentoring takes place less frequently than supervision. The frequency with which you meet will be agreed upon by you and your mentor but is generally 3 to 12 times throughout the training year.

Mentors are mutually chosen rather than assigned. In order to assist with choosing a mentor, biographies of staff members offering to serve as mentors will be provided to interns during orientation.

Kansas City VA Medical Center Administrative Information and Benefits

Facility and Training Resources

The Kansas City VA Medical Center has ample resources to support the Psychology Internship Program. Interns have private office space to use for clinical and administrative duties. These offices provide them with personal computers that are fully integrated with the internet, the VA Central Office intranet, and the Medical Center's electronic patient record system. Psychology has current software for psychological assessment instruments that are frequently used and also has a Psychology Library which contains frequently used literature including empirically supported treatment manuals.

The KCVA has many other services that provide support to the Medical Center, to which trainees have access. There is an eight-story Research and Education Wing that houses an active research program. The Medical Library subscribes to approximately 300 professional journals and has over 5,000 books and 500 audiovisual software items in its collection. Books and periodicals not in our collection can be borrowed from the library through an extensive inter-library loan network. Medical Media Service, utilizing television, photography, and illustration, produces presentations in all types of modalities for patient and staff education. This service also documents and produces audiovisual materials dealing with patient care, research efforts, public relations, and any other communicative efforts deemed important by the Medical Center.

The KCVA is highly committed to staff wellness. A gymnasium exercise room is available to staff and trainees, and they frequently provide free personal training sessions. The off-site Honor Annex also offers free yoga sessions to staff on a regular basis. Educational and motivational classes related to nutrition and exercise are often provided.

Other special events on campus include a farmer's market for veterans and local vendors, food truck Fridays during the summers, and employee appreciation lunches/events.

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Psychology interns at Kansas City VAMC fall under the national leave policy found on the OAA web page (13 vacation days, 13 sick days, 11 federal holidays). Interns also have up to 40 hours of Authorized Absence that can be applied to VA postdoctoral residency interviews and completion of dissertation. Hours for such authorized absences are not charged to your leave. All AA hours must be approved in advance by the Training Director.

Interns are encouraged to discuss issues, concerns, and suggestions for improvement throughout the year with their supervisors and the Training Director. Evaluation and grievance procedures are outlined in the Psychology Internship Handbook and are discussed in full with interns during the first week of the program.

Psychology interns are referred to as Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) and are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and options provided. The Training Director will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in a timely manner.

Drug and Smoke-free Environments and Possibilities for Drug Testing

The Kansas City VA is a drug-free and smoke-free workplace. In 1986, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12564, Drug-Free Federal Workplace, setting a goal to prevent Federal employee use of illegal drugs, whether on or off duty. In accordance with the Executive Order, VA established a Drug-Free Workplace Program that aims to create an environment that is safe, healthful, productive, and secure. The following information should be noted:

- All VHA HPTs are exempt from pre-employment drug-testing.
- All HPTs are subject to the following types of drug testing:
 - Random;
 - Reasonable suspicion;
 - Injury, illness, unsafe or unhealthful practice; and
 - Follow-up after completion of a counseling or rehabilitation program for illegal drug use through the VA Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- VHA HPTs may receive counseling and rehabilitation assistance through the VA EAP.
- VHA HPTs will be given the opportunity to justify a positive test result by submitting supplemental medical documentation to a Medical Review Officer (MRO) when a confirmed positive test could have resulted from legally prescribed medication.
- Prior to being notified of a drug test, VHA HPTs may avoid disciplinary action by voluntarily identifying themselves to EAP as a user of illegal drugs. Disciplinary action will not be initiated if the HPT fully complies with counseling, rehabilitation and after-care recommended by EAP, and thereafter refrains from using illegal drugs. **Note: Self-identification must happen prior to being notified of a drug test. This option is no longer viable once an HPT has been selected for a drug test.**
- VA will initiate termination of VA appointment and/or dismissal from VA rotation against any trainee who:
 - Is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test (even if a drug is legal in the state where training); or
 - Refuses to be drug tested.

Future Employment Opportunities

The KCVA is HIGHLY committed to retaining qualified interns as either postdoctoral fellows or permanent employees. While we cannot guarantee any positions, all previous fellows seeking employment with the KCVA were selected for psychologist positions PRIOR to the completion of the fellowship program for the past four years and the one intern who applied for employment and the KCVA was also selected. Mental health leadership has been so committed to hiring psychology interns and fellows that have held jobs for over six months to allow for the completion of their training programs before beginning employment.

For interns seeking postdoctoral fellowship opportunities (either local or in differing geographical locations), the training director will help provide direction and suggestions to better understand the application and interview process to help maximize your success opportunities.

Internship Training Materials and Storage Policy

Interns are required to submit work samples that document their completion of internship requirements, proficiency in the nine competencies, and multiprofessional training activities. These documents, as well as application materials and other relevant paperwork gathered throughout the training year, will be collected electronically by the Training Director and kept in an “electronic binder”. The binder is only able to be accessed by the intern and the Training Director(s). After the completion of the training year, the intern will no longer be able to access this binder; however, these binders are stored and kept permanently. Any required information needed after internship will be provided upon request.

Interns with Disabilities/VA Support Needs

Trainees with an ADA disability and/or those believing they will need adjusted work demands for medical or mental health reasons are able to request reasonable accommodations from the VA. Documented confirmation of the medical/mental health need is required, and this process is completed through the HR Local Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator (LRAC). It is recommended that these requests be made as soon as possible into the training year in order to create realistic training plans and expectations that fit the needs of the trainee. Your Training Director will assist in facilitating contact with the LRAC, as desired. Various additional VA support programs will be provided to you and can also be accessed online.

Employees and psychology trainees have access to a free service dedicated to addressing workplace or personal concerns on a confidential basis. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services are provided by a licensed mental health professional who can offer short-term problem-solving (1-3 sessions) and can also provide referrals to community-based services for additional support.

The COVID-19 Impact on Training

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has been ended, the impact on psychology training has remained. As a result of the pandemic, a great deal of work has shifted to telehealth and interns were approved to provide services through telework (from home). Many staff were also sent home to work several days/week, and most now work on rotations. This created a need to conduct many meetings and trainings through virtual meetings to accommodate the varied staff schedules.

During the pandemic, APA provided temporary approval for telesupervision to occur (meaning that a supervisor could be located at a different site while providing in-session supervision when the intern was treating the patient virtually). As the pandemic status has ended, there is still uncertainty how this may or may not change. There are current motions to advocate making this a permanent approved method for telesupervision; however, nothing has been decided.

As of the start of the 2023-2024 training year, if an intern is seeing any patient in person on-site, they must have an on-site supervisor to oversee those sessions. If an intern is seeing a patient virtually, the supervisor can be either on-site or teleworking for those sessions.

As an APA accredited internship, we adhere strictly to APA and OAA guidelines. If any updated requirements are made, interns and staff will be notified as soon as possible to discuss the necessary transitions.

Telework Options

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the training program, with the unwavering support of medical center leadership, was successful in transitioning psychology trainees to telework while maintaining almost all training activities without significant disruption. At this time, new interns will still be considered for telework options. If an intern does not want to telework, the Training Director will work with the clinics to ensure there is on-site office space for use. The following procedures are in place for telework consideration:

- a. At the start of the training year, trainees will likely be required to be on-site.

- b. During this time, the trainees will be required to undergo orientation in order to complete necessary Human Resources paperwork and review local, VA, and training department policies and directives. During orientation, they will complete a series of trainings and didactics on telehealth, teleworking, and others, including crisis interventions and treatment implementation through VVC and telephone mediums.
- c. Trainees will be expected to complete competency checks in order to demonstrate their ability to perform their duties at home. These competency checks involve assessing knowledge of procedures and protocols in the event of emergencies while teleworking and may include role plays/practice sessions to show ability to apply protocols.
- d. Trainees may be required to complete the TMS training(s) on telework and complete necessary Telework Agreements.
- e. Upon completion of competency checks, TMS training(s) and approved telework agreements, the supervisor will allow the trainees to telework.
 - a. Also, it is important to note that trainees in specific rotations or residential programs may not have the ability to telework and must perform the duties expected for that program. They will be notified of this during the beginning of the year, so they can factor this into their training plan decisions.
- f. Trainees who are granted the ability to telework must demonstrate maintenance of competencies. Competency maintenance checks will be administered informally during supervision. Competency maintenance checks are designed to ensure that the necessary information and protocols introduced during orientation are maintained while working from home.
 - a. If telework competency is failed, supervisor and Training Director will discuss if further training is needed and/or if trainee is not appropriate for telework. Trainee may then be expected to see patients via VVC while physically on-site.
- g. Supervisors may require checklists of training and/or administrative duties that the trainee engages in while working from home, particularly during times of limited patient care. If trainee fails to comply with supervisor requirements, remediation steps may be required in order to continue utilizing telework accommodations.
- h. If a trainee should require a reasonable accommodation, the trainee must work with the Human Resources department, the Training Director(s), and the Designated Education Officer to acquire said accommodation. Please note, even if a reasonable accommodation is granted, we may still not allow direct contact to occur without a supervisor present in the session.
- i. Trainees are expected to connect to all video sessions (patient services, supervision, meetings, trainings) in a timely manner. If technical issues occur, trainees are to maintain communication with rotation supervisor and/or Training Director about how to proceed, especially if patient care may be disrupted.
- j. Trainees should ensure that the covering supervisor is forwarded or included on VVC links, in case they need to join a session urgently. Please discuss with your supervisor how they would like for this to be handled.
- k. At this time, psychology externs, interns, and fellows are approved to conduct video and/or telephone sessions across state lines. No trainee or staff is allowed to provide telehealth services to patients outside of the United States at this time.
- l. Telework agreements may be terminated if APA and/or OAA requirements change. In this case, the Training Director will work with trainees on a transition plan to return to full-time in person care.

The health and safety of our psychology trainees, along with the resources and ability to provide competent, ethical care to our nation's Veterans, are of utmost importance to us. We will continue to provide high quality training in professional psychology while simultaneously keeping the health and wellness of psychology interns at the forefront.

Psychology Training Staff

Stephen Baich, Psy.D.

Position: Program Manager, Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM)/ Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC)

Degree: Clinical Psychology, University of Hartford, 1999

License: Missouri, Kansas

Dr. Baich's professional interests include serious mental illness, the recovery model, and program development. He is a VA certified provider in Social Skills Training (SST) for serious mental illness. His primary orientation is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family, cheering for the Chiefs and Royals, and listening to music.

Jessica Bergner, Ph.D.

Position: Oncology Mental Health Integration

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Clinical Psychology with Health Emphasis

License: Missouri

Dr. Bergner is a health psychologist working in the oncology and hematology clinics. Dr. Bergner completed her internship at The University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed a health psychology fellowship at Kansas City VA Medical Center. Dr. Bergner specializes in the treatment of medically complex patients and serves as a member of the IDEA committee. She has expertise in MI and CBT modalities. Dr. Bergner also has training in mindfulness, guided imagery, and ACT. She is especially interested in the management of chronic diseases, sleep, and pain. Dr. Bergner lives with her husband, two cats, and her axolotl. She enjoys baking, hiking, biking, and crafting in her free time.

Thao Bui, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist (Primary Care-Mental Health Integration), Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator

Degree: University of Kansas, Clinical Psychology, 2012

License: Washington

Dr. Bui completed her internship at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and the Telemental Health and Rural Outreach postdoctoral fellowship at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle. Dr. Bui is passionate about increasing access to care through PC-MHI, technology, and education. She serves as the VISN 15 mHealth Specialist in promoting VA mental health apps and web courses. She has published on the topics of telemental health and Veterans in Military Medicine, Training and Education in Professional Psychology, Psychological Services, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, Journal of Clinical Psychology and Telemedicine and e-Health, as well as several chapters in books. Her interests include eating good food, spending quality time with family and friends, finding new experiences in town, reading, hiking, and traveling.

Lauren Davis, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Whole Health

Degree: University of Iowa, Clinical Psychology, 2017

License: Kansas

Dr. Davis is a psychologist in the Behavioral Medicine team under the Whole Health program at the KCVA. In addition to expertise in general mental health, she has specialized experience in health psychology and integrated care, focusing on health behavior change and coping with chronic illness. She has training and expertise in Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), as well as Complementary and Integrative Health modalities such as mindfulness, biofeedback, and clinical hypnosis. Outside of work, Dr. Davis spends most of her time wrangling her toddler and trying to make it to nap time (or bedtime). When she has free time, she likes catching up on trashy reality TV and updating/decorating her house.

Kristen Davis-Durairaj, Psy.D. (she/her/hers)

Position: Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Director, Outpatient SUD Psychologist (STOP)

Degree: Adler University, Clinical Psychology, 2010

License: Missouri

Dr. Davis has completed VA training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (CBT-SUD), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure therapy (PE), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). She also completed the VA geriatrics scholar program in 2018. Dr. Davis worked in the KCVA rural CBOCs for over 5 years and helped pilot various tele-health mental health treatments before moving to her current position. Dr. Davis has previously worked as a Clinical Director of a rural community mental health clinic and intensive outpatient substance abuse CSTAR program. She has strong interests in treating addiction, PTSD, and sleep disorders. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, playing trivia, games nights, traveling the world, bingeing true crime podcasts, communicating with memes, and quoting The Office.

George Dent, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Counseling Psychology, 2005

License: Missouri

Dr. Dent serves as a psychologist in the outpatient Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment program (PCT). His interests include psychological assessment and cognitive therapy for post-traumatic stress, affective, and anxiety disorders. In addition, Dr. Dent has an interest in psychotherapy and assessment with veterans that have experienced traumatic brain injury. Dr. Dent has completed VA trainings in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure therapy (PE), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), and regularly trains VA staff in Cognitive Processing Therapy. Dr. Dent has had experience in working with individuals with substance use issues, aggression, and intimate partner violence. Dr. Dent has obtained training and experience in substance abuse treatment centers, outpatient and inpatient mental health, and college counseling centers. Outside of work, Dr. Dent enjoys spending time with family, watching and coaching baseball, hiking and trivia.

Sara Fiene, Ph.D. (she / her)

Position: Psychologist (Whole Health)

Degree: University of Kansas (Counseling Psychology), 2022

Dr. Fiene is a Psychologist in the Whole Health Clinic. Dr. Fiene joined the KCVA team in 2022 after completing the KCVA Internship program (she also completed an Externship in the STOP clinic at the KCVA from 2019-2020). Dr. Fiene enjoys working in Whole Health because of its emphasis on Complementary and Integrative Health and opportunities to work throughout the hospital implementing whole health clinical care. She facilitates group therapies incorporating guided imagery and mindfulness and also has training in a variety of clinical approaches including Motivational Interviewing (MI), cognitive behavioral therapies, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). In addition to expertise in health psychology and general mental health, Dr. Fiene has a special interest in sleep medicine and trauma-informed care. She strives to integrate a trauma-informed approach when delivering health-focused, evidence-based practices. Outside of professional work, Dr. Fiene enjoys cooking, her air-fryer, reading fantasy/adventure novels, and going on outdoor adventures. You will catch her at the lake or hiking on a local trail most weekends.

Suzanne Hilleary, Ph.D.

Position: Neuropsychologist

Degree: Fuller Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Seminary, 2010

License: California

Dr. Hilleary served as a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic until 2023, when she transitioned into the role as a neuropsychologist. In addition to expertise in general mental health, she has specialized experience in working with women Veterans, military sexual trauma, and LGBTQ populations. Dr. Hilleary previously worked as the director of Women's Mental Health at the Long Beach VA in Long Beach, California. She is a certified VA Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) provider and a certified Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) provider. She also has training and expertise in the provision of Prolonged Exposure (PE), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and

Imagery Rehearsal Therapy (IRT). She completed her internship at the Long Beach VA and is formally trained as a neuropsychologist, having completed a two-year neuropsychology fellowship at the Loma Linda VA. Although love of therapy ultimately won out over neuropsychology in her career choices, Dr. Hilleary maintains substantial involvement in assessment within the MHC. Dr. Hilleary relocated to the Kansas City area from the west coast. She misses the ocean and mountains but is happy to be back in her hometown and closer to extended family. She enjoys spending time with her spouse, daughter, and pup.

Rachael Holloway, Psy.D. (she/her/hers)

Position: Pain Psychologist (Primary Care-Mental Health Integration)

Degree: Clinical Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles, 2015

License: California

Dr. Holloway serves as a staff psychologist in primary care-mental health integration. She completed her internship at the Sioux Falls VA and completed a psychosomatic/behavioral medicine postdoctoral fellowship at VA San Diego where she specialized in pain psychology. She worked as a pain psychologist at Kaiser Permanente using both Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for chronic pain, before returning to the VA system. In addition to health psychology, Dr. Holloway also has an interest in diversity and multicultural issues. Her graduate program specialized in multicultural clinical training, and she leads the Race-Based Stress and Trauma Empowerment group. She was born and raised in California and remained there before relocating to Kansas City to be closer to her spouse's family and has enjoyed exploring KC and living in a mid-sized city. In her free time, she enjoys taking care of plants, reading, socializing, and watching stand-up comedy.

Peter E. Jaberg, Ph.D.

Position: Primary Care-Mental Health Integration Program Manager

Degree: Psychology (Clinical Child), Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

License: Missouri, Rhode Island (Inactive), and National Register

Dr. Jaberg is the Primary Care-Mental Health Integration Program Manager. In addition to program management, he practices in PC-MHI at the Linwood Primary Care location. His initial clinical work with Veterans was in the area of Compensation and Pension examination, but subsequent experiences include inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment. His clinical and scholarly interests include eating disorder, weight/shape stigma and bias, body image, and reduction of mental health stigma across health care and culture. He regularly performs trombone, euphonium, and trumpet/cornet at local churches and with community groups.

Luke Kelberer, Ph.D. (he/him/his)

Position: PCT Clinical Team Staff Psychologist

Degree: Oklahoma State University, 2020

License: Missouri

Dr. Kelberer clinical interests include PTSD, substance use/abuse, and disordered sleep. He completed his internship at the Salt Lake City VA, and his post-doctoral fellowship at the Kansas City VA. His research interests cover a broad array of topics, but include suicide prevention, attentional biases and psychopathology, and positive psychology (grit, hope, optimism). He is originally from Minnesota and is still passionate about Minnesota sports (unfortunately). His interests outside of clinical work also include traveling, spending time with his family, basketball (both watching and playing), reading, learning French, video games, and trashy reality TV.

Jamie Kratky, Ph.D.

Position: PCT Psychologist

Degree: University of Kansas, Counseling Psychology, 2020

License: Kansas and Missouri

Dr. Kratky serves as a psychologist on the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical team. She specializes in the treatment of trauma and PTSD using evidence-based psychotherapies including Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy. She also has interests in vocational psychology and positive psychology. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and being outdoors.

Briget C. Lanktree, Psy.D. (she/her/hers)

Position: Deputy Chief, Mental Health/ Psychology Executive
Degree: Clinical Psychology, Xavier University, 2005
License: Illinois

Dr. Lanktree joined the staff of KCVA from Orlando VAHCS, where she served as the Domiciliary Section Chief. At OVAHCS, Dr. Lanktree was an active member of the training committee and previously won the Outstanding Training Supervisor Award (2017-2018). Prior to coming to VA in 2015, Dr. Lanktree worked in the Illinois Department of Corrections as a Staff Psychologist and later Psychologist Administrator. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a substance abuse counselor, which remains her specialty area years later. Dr. Lanktree also has a significant interest and investment in leadership development and performance improvement. She values authenticity and diversity in her teams and works to promote a positive work culture. Dr. Lanktree is an avid sports fan, which bodes well in her role as a soccer and elite cheer mom. She loves to read and to be active, especially with her family and friends.

Rebekah “Beki” Lee, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist (Acute Psychiatry Inpatient)
Degree: University of Missouri – Kansas City, Counseling Psychology
License: Missouri

Dr. Lee currently works as the inpatient psychologist on 10E/W. She wears lots of different hats on the unit and does a lot of different types of clinical work (individual, group, family, testing/assessment) although all very time-limited (1-4 sessions). Her primary orientation is psychodynamic, but she uses a lot of short-term interventions from different theories in her work with folks on the unit. She obtained her MA and PHD from University of Missouri – Kansas City. She remained locally for internship (Leavenworth VA) and post-doc (KCVA). She loves working with folks with SMI and also has a special interest in testing and assessment. At home, Dr. Lee loves to spend time wrangling her kids, having dates with her spouse and going to brunch with her friends. She also enjoys being active and LOVES going on walks – you can often find her during her lunch break walking around outside the hospital.

Ian Lynam, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist (Excelsior Springs Outpatient Clinic)
Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2010
License: Missouri

Dr. Lynam serves as a Primary Care and General Mental Health Clinician at the Excelsior Springs Outpatient Clinic and provides services to the Cameron Outpatient Clinic via telemedicine. His primary orientation is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with training and interests in Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure for PTSD and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia. He enjoys reading sci-fi books, playing board games, and spends time coaching his kids' rec sports teams.

Brad Mazer, Psy.D.

Position: PCT Psychologist
Degree: University of St. Thomas, Counseling Psychology, 2017
License: Minnesota

Dr. Mazer serves as a staff psychologist in the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic (PCT) where he provides services remotely through telehealth. He completed both his internship (2017) and postdoctoral residency (2018) at KCVA. He has received training in Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) and has VA provider status in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). Dr. Mazer also has interests in health psychology and sports psychology. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time following his favorite sports teams and spending time outdoors (especially fishing).

Charlotte McCloskey, Ph.D.

Position: Local Recovery Coordinator, Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic
Degree: University of Missouri- Columbia, 2008
License: Kansas

Dr. McCloskey is the KCVAMC Local Recovery Coordinator, which is an administrative position that provides support to all of Mental Health Services including working closely with Veteran Peer Support Specialists and Veteran consumers. Her role also focuses on helping reduce stigma surrounding mental

illness and reducing barriers to effective treatments for Mental Health. She has clinical duties in multiple departments including PRRC and the Mental Health Clinic. Dr. McCloskey has interests in research and consultation, as well as special interests in issues related to diversity. Dr. McCloskey's theoretical orientation is integrative and reflects multicultural awareness, psychodynamic and Cognitive Behavioral Theory. Dr. McCloskey received her postdoctoral training at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, has had staff positions in PCT and MHC, and formerly served in leadership roles in training. She is an active member of the American Psychological Association, Division 18, Psychologist in Public Service – VA Section and Psychologists in Indian Country Section and the APA Committee for Women in Psychology. She is also one of the call co-coordinators for the Psychologists of Color Special Interest Group as well as the Mid-Career Special Interest Group of the Association of VA Psychology Leaders, and active in the Society of Indian Psychologists.

Anne Merrill, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: University of Missouri – Columbia, Clinical Psychology, 2018

License: Kansas

Dr. Merrill serves as a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. She completed her clinical internship at the Dorn VA in South Carolina and her post-doctoral residency here at the Kansas City VA. She was thrilled at the opportunity to join the KCVA staff at the completion of her residency with a position in the Mental Health Clinic. Dr. Merrill enjoys working in general mental health and working with a diverse Veteran population that affords opportunity to utilize many different therapeutic treatments. She is a certified VA provider in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D), and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression (ACT-D). She also has training and expertise in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and numerous additional CBT protocols. Dr. Merrill also enjoys being part of the KCVA psychology training program and serves as the Externship Training Director. Although originally from Minnesota, Dr. Merrill loves calling Kansas City home. She loves the older neighborhoods of the city, the parks, and of course, the bbq. She also enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with her husband and son.

Coral Muñoz, Psy.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: Psy.D., Roosevelt University

License: Missouri

Dr. Munoz serves as a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic, with a focus in Health Psychology. She is VA certified in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP). She also has training and experience in the provision of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She completed her internship at the St. Louis VA and her postdoctoral residency at Center for Behavioral Medicine. She often wonders how, with her own extensive training in behaviorism, her dogs became so ill-behaved. She is often seen wandering the halls of the VA, trying to appease the demands of her FitBit. She enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, stargazing, copious amounts of coffee, and all wonderments of nature.

Sarah Shouse, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Position: Staff Psychologist (Primary Care-Mental Health Integration)

Degree: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Counseling Psychology, 2009

License: Missouri

Dr. Shouse completed her internship with the Topeka VA and her postdoctoral residency at the KCVA. She worked in an endocrinology practice before returning to the VA as a staff psychologist. She enjoys working as part of an interdisciplinary team, delivering brief interventions, assisting patient with health and behavioral change, and providing supervision. She serves as the Facility Lead Trainer for PCMHI. Dr. Shouse has completed VA training in Motivational Interviewing, Problem-Solving Training in Primary Care, Prolonged Exposure-Primary Care and Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain. When not at work, she enjoys taking photos of nature or her 2 adorable children. Other interests include reading, attending concerts, traveling, and various athletic pursuits.

Timothy Streitwieser, Psy.D.

Position: Pain Clinic Program Manager/Deputy Psychology Executive

Degree: Clinical Psychology, Spalding University

License: Arkansas

Dr. Streitwieser is the Director of the Integrated Pain Clinic. He received his doctorate from Spalding University with an emphasis on behavioral health intervention, chronic disease management, and primary care psychology. Beyond health psychology, Dr. Streitwieser enjoys program development, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), outcome based research, and is active with several hospital-wide committees. His personal interests include church-related activities, accordion-based music, and cooking on the Big Green Egg.

Jennifer Swaim, Ph.D., BCB.

Position: Pain Psychologist in Integrated Pain Clinic (IPC)

Degree: Counseling Psychology, Iowa State University

License(s): Missouri

Dr. Swaim is a medical psychologist with primary clinical interests in pain management and biomedical ethics, and all strategies that support positive health behavior change. She completed her internship in health psychology at the Cleveland VA. She is board certified in general biofeedback, and an Approved Consultant with American Society for Clinical Hypnosis as well as a VA clinical hypnosis trainer. She recently completed an MBA in health care and joined the KCVA after working abroad in the Caribbean. Her outside interests include volunteering with her therapy-assist canine Luna, playing the harp and/or viola in local community venues, any form of travel, and creative writing.

Jillon Vander Wal, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: University of Missouri-Columbia, Clinical Psychology, Research and Statistical Methods

Licenses: Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan

Dr. Vander Wal is a staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. She is a Professor Emeritus with the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training Program at Saint Louis University where she formerly served as Director of Clinical Training and Director of the Eating and Weight Studies Lab. She is also a program faculty member with the Professionalism and Integrity in Research Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Vander Wal's clinical areas of interest include the evidence-based treatment of psychological disorders with particular interest in eating and weight regulation, anxiety spectrum disorders, and depression. She enjoys spending time with her husband, playing tennis, hiking, and reading.

Sarah Whiteman, Ph.D.

Position: Staff Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: Clinical Psychology, Auburn University, 2022

License: Kansas (pending)

Dr. Whiteman is a new staff psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic at KCVA. She joins the MHC staff after completing her internship at the Cincinnati VAMC's Trauma Recovery Center and postdoctoral fellowship in PTSD/SUD in the STOP Clinic at KCVA. Dr. Whiteman's primary area of interest and expertise is the assessment and treatment of PTSD and other trauma-related disorders. In addition, she is passionate about learning and implementing evidence-based practices, including both assessment and intervention. She has completed VA trainings in Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Prolonged Exposure (PE). She has completed the CPT consultation process and will be a certified CPT provider upon licensure. Dr. Whiteman's other areas of interest include research, training, and teaching. She also thoroughly enjoys mentoring, especially helping others develop their own identity as a clinician. Outside of work, Dr. Whiteman enjoys spending time with her fiancé (Brett), cat (Penny), family, and friends; watching/going to college football and basketball games; basically anything to do with food (cooking, baking, eating, trying new restaurants, etc.); and streaming various tv shows.

Justin Wiseman, Psy.D.

Position: Substance Use Disorder Psychologist, Mental Health Clinic

Degree: Clinical Psychology, Wright State University School of Professional Psychology, 2018

License: Missouri

Dr. Wiseman serves as a substance use disorder (SUD) psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. He has worked in a variety of settings providing SUD treatment to include state and federal penitentiaries, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, and community mental health centers. Other clinical interests include, but are not limited to, treating various mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, grief and loss, trauma, interpersonal/relational issues, stress reduction, life transitions, and problematic sexual behavior. Dr. Wiseman is trained in several different therapeutic modalities and employs a number of evidence-based interventions to help Veterans progress toward their goals. He is passionate on helping Veterans live more meaningful lives and gain a sense of personal success and empowerment. Dr. Wiseman grew up in cross-state rival city, St. Louis, and is a die-hard STL sports fan. He loves St. Louis Blues' hockey and, to his partner's disliking, watches religiously throughout the season. Dr. Wiseman also enjoys being active, traveling, attending concerts/sporting events, and spending time with friends and family.

Previous Interns

Date	Program	Position after Completion
2022-2023	Auburn University Brigham Young University	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Medical Center/Hospital Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center
2021-2022	University of Missouri-Kansas City University of Kansas	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Private/Group Practice Employed, VA Medical Center
2020-2021	Hofstra University	Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center
2019-2020	Nova Southeastern University William James College	Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center
2018-2019	Palo Alto University	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Private General Hospital
2017-2018	Illinois School Professional Psychology, Argosy Chicago University of North Dakota	Postdoctoral Fellowship, medical center/hospital Employed, Private/Group Practice
2016-2017	University of Kansas University of Saint Thomas	Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center
2015-2016	Wright State University Pacific Graduate School of Psychology	Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship, VA Medical Center

Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data

As required by the APA Commission on Accreditation, below is the current Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data for the Kansas City VA.

Date Program Tables are updated: August 30, 2023

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	No

include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values?	
If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented:	NA
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>The Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVA) is pleased to offer three psychology internship positions for the 2024-2025 training year! The philosophy of training at KCVA is best described as a "scholar-practitioner" model. The training experiences have a strong clinical focus. Knowledge and use of empirically supported processes and interventions and models of evidence-based practice are expected and encouraged in all aspects of the program. The training program at the Kansas City VA Medical Center is a generalist program that provides all interns the opportunity to work closely with a diverse patient population under supervision of a psychology staff with a broad range of interest and expertise. One of the goals of this internship is to provide the necessary skill set that will enable the intern to function effectively in a professional role in a variety of employment settings. The primary goal of the program is to provide an emphasis on both breadth and intensity of training that allows interns to have a solid, well-rounded training experience. Our focus is on helping interns better learn to understand and assist individuals who are experiencing significant psychological problems. Additionally, the experiences provided in our program require a broad array of clinical skills that are important in helping individuals in many different settings outside of a VA Medical Center.</p> <p>We also value a developmental approach to training in which tasks of increasing difficulty and complexity are given to interns throughout the course of their internship as they demonstrate their ability and readiness to take on new responsibilities. Supervision is expected to match the needs of the intern in a way that facilitates professional development and progression. Thus, the intensity of supervision diminishes over the course of the rotation and internship as the intern matures into a role approaching colleague rather than student. By the internship’s end, we expect to play more of a consultant role for the interns, rather than that of a supervisor monitoring every decision and move. Continued professional growth is fostered through ongoing examination of current research to inform clinical practice and through encouraging interns to learn and utilize treatments that he or she may not have been exposed to</p>	

<p>in the past. Supervision will also generally be matched to the needs of the intern and the intensity of this supervision is expected to diminish as the intern transitions into the role of a psychologist.</p> <p>A special focus of our internship is fostering the growth and integration of interns' personal and professional identities. We emphasize the need for balance in our lives. This results in our insistence on a 40-hour work week and encouraging our interns to pursue interests outside of psychology, such as recreation, exercise, family, and friendships.</p> <p>Professional identity development, especially in the areas of employment location and selection, is assisted by seminars about job searches, licensure, program development, mental health administration, and supervision. Additionally, the Director of Training spends significant time with the interns, both individually and as a group, encouraging and facilitating completion of the dissertation, exploring possible career paths, and assisting in conducting appropriate, timely and successful job searches. In addition, psychology staff are very open to providing informal assistance in these areas. Finally, the atmosphere in Mental Health at KCVA is quite collegial. We value our interns highly, appreciating them both as professional colleagues and as fellow human beings.</p> <p>KCVA provides services to diverse populations and strives to create a therapeutic environment for, and ensure ethical treatment of, patients with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. Thus, an important goal of the psychology training program is to increase trainees' knowledge and skills in working with a wide range of clients from different cultural backgrounds.</p>	
<p>Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered for our program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education. Applicant must be enrolled in an APA, CPA, or PCSAS accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology for a Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree. The student must be within one year or less of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D and must have completed all graduate prerequisites for internship candidacy including completion of comprehensive exams by November 12, 2023. 2. Direct Hours. The KCVA looks for a minimum of 500 direct clinical intervention and 25 direct assessment hours of supervised graduate-level externship experience; however, lower numbers will still be considered if additional relevant training experiences have been procured. 3. Commitment. Applicant must be able to accept a full-time appointment for a one year training period and commits to completing the full internship training year. 4. U.S. Citizenship. All VA appointees must be a citizen of the United States for consideration. 5. U.S. Social Security Number. All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA. 	

<p>6. Selective Service Registration. Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee.</p> <p>7. Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation. All Health Profession Trainees (HPTs) will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations prior to onboarding.</p> <p>8. Drug Testing. Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. Health Professional Trainees (HPTs) are exempt from drug-testing prior to appointment; however, fellows are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You are required to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice prior to receiving your formal offer of employment. Please note that VA will initiate termination of VA appointment and/or dismissal from VA against any trainee who is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test (even if a drug is legal in the state where training) or refuses to be drug tested. Health Profession Trainees will be given the opportunity to justify a positive test result by submitting supplemental medical documentation to a Medical Review Officer when a confirmed positive test could have resulted from legally prescribed medication.</p> <p>9. Additional Forms. Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and eligibility can be found at the below link. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.</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</p>	<p>Yes, Amount = 500</p>
<p>Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours</p>	<p>Yes, Amount = 25</p>
<p>Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:</p>	
<p>The program does not have additional screening criteria.</p>	
<p>Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year*</p>	
<p>Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns</p>	<p>33,892</p>
<p>Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If access to medical insurance is provided:</p>	

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?	Yes
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	104
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	104
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?	Yes
Other Benefits (please describe):	NA
*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)	
Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts	6
Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree	0
Academic teaching	PD=0, EP=0
Community mental health center	PD=1, EP=0
Consortium	PD=0, EP =0
University Counseling Center	PD=0, EP =0
Hospital/Medical Center	PD=0, EP =0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	PD=3, EP =1
Psychiatric facility	PD=0, EP =0
Correctional facility	PD=0, EP =0
Health maintenance organization	PD=0, EP =0
School district/system	PD=0, EP =0
Independent practice setting	PD=0, EP =0
Other	PD=0, EP =1
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.	

Kansas City Area Information



General Information

Kansas City is located on the western boundary of Missouri. The present population of the metropolitan area (which includes Kansas City, KS, Kansas City, MO, Kansas City North, Independence, and suburban areas) is over 1.7 million. Kansas City is a city of culture, with its international airport, modern hotels, auditoriums, sophisticated retail stores and shops, and varied nightlife. Kansas City has a world-renowned country club residential district considered to be a model of city planning. Kansas City offers many free activities/events across the metro area each year. It is a great city to live in with affordable cost of living options!

The greater Kansas City area has numerous employment opportunities for partners and family. Major corporations that have headquarters in the area include Cerner, Garmin, T-Mobile (Sprint Legacy), Hallmark, AMC, American Century, Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, YRC Worldwide H&R Block, and many others!

Educational Facilities

Educational institutions of greater Kansas City include the University of Missouri at Kansas City, the University of Kansas Medical Center, the Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design, three graduate religious seminaries, excellent junior colleges, numerous public schools and parochial schools, academies and institutions. Several mental health organizations in the community provide opportunities for quality continuing education programs.

Recreational Facilities

The recreational needs of the area are met by ample facilities and activities. Kansas City maintains a system of 108 parks, covering 7,030 acres. Swope Park, the largest of many renowned parks, consists of picturesque picnic grounds, a zoo, colorful gardens, tennis courts, golf course, and the famed Starlight

Theater. The newly renovated Union Station offers Science City (an interactive science exhibit), movies, shopping, and restaurants. Two large amusement parks, Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun, provide amusement rides and water attractions. These entertainment parks along with the Ozarks a couple of hours to the south draw many tourists to the area each year.

The Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL, the Kansas City Royals baseball club of the American League, the Attack (indoor) and the Sporting (outdoor) soccer clubs, and the Kansas Speedway NASCAR racetrack combine with several top flight collegiate competitive events such as basketball, tennis, and track to offer the sports fan a varied and entertaining assortment of diversions. The full spectrum of participating sports is also available to fellows. Kansas City is proud of its top-quality rodeo and the annual American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, as well as the annual BBQ Cook offs.

Cultural attractions include the Kauffman Performing Arts Center, American Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Missouri Repertory Theater, the Sprint Center, the Power and Light District (a new concept entertainment center), the Lyric Opera, Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Ballet, and several dinner theaters. The Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts rank with the country's best.

For more information on the Kansas City area, please visit:

<https://www.visitkc.com/visitors/things-do>

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