



VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship with Psychosocial Rehabilitation Focus

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is pleased to offer an APA-accredited* Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Psychology with focus in Psychosocial Rehabilitation. The starting date for this Fellowship **August 24, 2026**. VAPAHCS, an affiliated training center for many disciplines from several universities, offers multiple excellent opportunities for educating PSR mental health leaders of the future who will have a commitment to the potential recovery of individuals with chronic and severe mental illness (CSMI), will promote integration of care, expand systemic education, and lead progressive change. PSR strives not only to achieve stability but moves beyond the maintenance model of symptom control to emphasize functioning in the community of one's own choosing. Social rehabilitation assists individuals in transcending limits imposed by mental illness and addressing social barriers such as second-class personhood and stigma, so that the individual can achieve their goals and aspirations. As such, PSR is both a conceptual framework for understanding mental illness and a client-centered system of care. Fellows in the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program who obtain training in the PSR focus area will attain advanced general professional competencies in clinical psychology, as well as gain experience in PSR-specific competency domains in inpatient, outpatient, and/or residential mental health settings for patients with CSMI.

The Program will involve training in these areas of Psychosocial Rehabilitation competence consistent with the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA) in their "Practice Guidelines for the Psychiatric Rehabilitation of Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness in a Managed Care Environment" (1997):

- Understanding severe and persistent mental illness
- Knowledge of psychosocial rehabilitation
- Integration of PSR principles in practice
- Practitioner's professional and self-development
- Multicultural clinical competence
- Understanding consumer initiatives, community engagement issues and practice, systems issues and strategies for advocacy, and systems change
- PSR assessment skills
- PSR intervention skills and strategies
- Understanding strategies for substance use interventions
- Understanding vocational rehabilitation, residential treatment, and housing intervention strategies

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is a full year, full-time position with a **stipend of \$66,387** per annum. Vacation, health insurance, sick leave, and authorized leave for conferences and other professional activities are available. Malpractice claims are covered; no additional professional insurance needs to be purchased. U.S. citizens who are candidates in (or have completed) an APA- or CPA-accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology, or have received a doctorate from a PCSAS-accredited Clinical Science program, and who are enrolled in or have completed an APA- or CPA-accredited internship are eligible to apply. All doctoral degree requirements, including dissertation defense, must be completed prior to beginning the fellowship. Preference is given to candidates with prior PSR training but it is not a requirement. **Applications will be due on December 15, 2025.** Applicants should be available for a virtual interview in January 2025. **Initial fellowship offers will be made in accordance with APPIC's Common Hold Date Procedures.**

The fellowship brochure and application instructions may be obtained by accessing the VA Palo Alto Psychology Training website at [Psychology Training Program | VA Palo Alto Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#), or by emailing the Postdoctoral Coordinator at William.Faustman@va.gov.

*The postdoctoral training program at the VA Palo Alto is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The next site visit is scheduled for 2031. The APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation can be reached at the APA, 750 First St. NE, Washington DC 20002-4242; phone number 202 336-5979.