

**VISN 1 NEW ENGLAND MIRECC  
VA ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP IN  
MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH AND TREATMENT  
AT THE VA BEDFORD HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**VISN 1 New England  
MIRECC Bedford Site  
VA Bedford Healthcare  
System**

200 Springs Road  
Bedford, MA 01730



**Psychology Fellowship  
Directors:**

Dr. Victoria Ameral  
Victoria.Ameral@va.gov

Dr. Brian Stevenson  
Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov

### **Fellowship Overview**

The Bedford site of the VISN 1 New England Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) is home to a two-year Advanced Psychology Fellowship program in Mental Illness Research and Treatment sponsored by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Psychology fellows receive mentored research training with MIRECC researchers who are working to improve treatment for Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders. Our team also conducts research on improving access to broader recovery-oriented services for this population, including meaningful employment, stable housing, and legal support. For more information on the VISN 1 New England MIRECC, please visit <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/>

The primary goal of the fellowship program is to train psychology fellows for advanced-level clinical research and practice and leadership roles in mental health and substance use disorders. Centered in a scientist-practitioner philosophy, fellows receive individual mentorship in clinical research and training in advanced clinical practice and program administration. Fellows develop an individualized training plan with the guidance of their identified mentor and mentorship committee. As part of the broader, nationwide network of VA Advanced fellowships, fellows also receive state-of-the-art educational experiences at both the local and national level.

While the fellowship is primarily housed within the MIRECC, fellows also have opportunities to work with clinical programs across levels of care including (though not limited to) the Veterans Mental Health and Addictions Program (VMHAP), Behavioral Addictions Clinic, Tobacco Cessation Program, the Domiciliary, and Inpatient Psychiatry. Fellows may also interact with researchers housed within other centers within the VA Bedford Healthcare System, including the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) and the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (New England GRECC). In addition, fellows will also

have the opportunity to interact and collaborate with investigators at the other site of the VISN 1 MIRECC at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

Fellows are nominated for postdoctoral fellowship appointments at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

## **Program Philosophy & Training Model**

The program follows a scientist-practitioner model, with a strong emphasis on state-of-the-art clinical research and practice. Advanced clinical research training is provided through individualized mentorship with MIRECC faculty. Clinical training is offered through a variety of clinical services, with an emphasis on treating Veterans with substance use disorders, behavioral addictions, and co-occurring disorders. Training also offers state-of-the-art seminars and didactics focused on research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, education, and service delivery. Fellows devote 75% of their time to patient-oriented research and education, and 25% to direct care and other activities. Fellows will become fully licensed and be prepared to assume leadership roles as VA mental health care providers.

## **Program Structure**

Fellows spend 75% of their time on research and related educational activities and 25% in direct clinical care. Fellows develop and implement a mentored research project, participate in scientific writing, grant writing, and presentations, and contribute to MIRECC educational activities and clinical service delivery, particularly within addictions-related settings. The Bedford site of the VISN 1 New England MIRECC is formally affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

MIRECC fellows join a large community of medical, psychology, and other allied health trainees at VA Bedford and its academic affiliates. Information regarding psychology training programs at VA Bedford can be found here: <https://www.va.gov/bedford-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/>

## **Program Goals & Objectives**

The goal of the VA Advanced Fellowship Program is to offer training experiences that support the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop, conduct, and synthesize critical mental health research and to function comfortably as part of an interdisciplinary research team.

In order to fulfill the goals of fellowship training, all Fellows must demonstrate an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the following areas by the completion of the Fellowship program, as measured by supervisors' evaluations of the specific competencies. Progress will be tracked via the training plan, which is completed annually by the primary research mentor and training director.

1. Research Methodology: Fellows spend 75% of their time on research and related educational activities. Under the guidance of an identified mentor and mentorship team, fellows design,

implement, analyze, and disseminate results of an independent research project during their two-year fellowship. Fellows also receive training in scientific writing, including grant writing, and support for submitting a proposal in their second year. Each year, Fellows are required to submit at least one first-author manuscript with one or more of their mentors.

2. Scholarly Inquiry: Key competency areas in scholarly inquiry, professional responsibility, and responsiveness to changes in the field include:

*a. Integration of Science and Practice:* Fellows learn to apply the scientific literature to their clinical practice and use lessons learned from clinical practice to foster and shape their scientific hypotheses.

*b. Conducting Clinically Informed Research:* Fellows gain advanced skills in conducting clinically focused research pertinent to the mental health needs of today's Veterans.

3. Evidence-Based Treatments: Fellows spend 25% of their time in direct (face-to-face) clinical training in their specialty area which serves to enhance their clinical skills, inform their research activities, and facilitate the translational component of the MIRECC mandate.

4. Professional & Ethical Development: Fellows demonstrate advanced-level competence in knowledge of IRB roles and responsibilities, understanding of legal and ethical issues involved in human research, and legal and ethical issues involved in the provision of mental health treatment services.

5. Teaching, Consultation, & Supervision: Fellows are prepared to be independent practitioners, researchers, and leaders in their specialty areas in mental health. They receive didactic training and experiences to develop their abilities to seek and provide consultation and teach, mentor, and supervise trainees.

6. Program Development & Administration: Fellows demonstrate advanced-practice skills in the organization, management, and administration of their own research, provision of clinical services, and training of junior Fellows and other trainees.

7. Cultural & Individual Diversity: The Bedford VAMC Psychology Service is fully committed to creating, maintaining, and advancing an environment of multicultural understanding and sensitivity. Fellows are expected to continue working to develop their awareness and understanding of cultural and individual differences through supervision, consultation, and formal training opportunities offered by Bedford VAMC.

## **Fellow Performance Evaluation, Feedback, Retention, and Termination Decisions**

Fellows select a mentorship committee that includes a MIRECC Fellowship Director, a core faculty mentor, secondary research mentors, and clinical training supervisors. In collaboration with their mentorship committee, fellows conduct self-assessment of competencies and training needs at fellowship start. In support of their individual research and clinical learning program, each Fellow works with research and clinical mentors whose scientific and clinical work best matches their interests and goals.

Ongoing feedback is provided during regular supervision and through less formal contact with mentors and supervisors. Formal written evaluations on core competencies and progress toward individualized training plans are conducted twice yearly. Core competency areas include: knowledge base in their specific area of research; clinical assessment skills; conceptual understanding of addiction-related issues and research questions; research design; relevant research methodologies; statistics and data analysis; formulation and presentation of results; and research ethics. MIRECC Fellows review each evaluation form with their primary mentor before they are signed by both the faculty member and Fellow. This process is highly interactive between the Fellow and primary mentor. Training plans are revised as needed to reflect new goals and objectives.

The Training Committee discusses Fellows' progress routinely and gives informal feedback throughout the training year. Fellows also provide formal feedback on their mentorship, clinical experiences and supervision, and overall fellowship program experience every 6 months and at the end of the training program.

At the beginning of Fellowship training, Fellows are given a copy of our Due Process and Grievance policy. This document provides a definition of inadequate performance, problematic behavior, and serious conflicts, a listing of possible sanctions and an explicit discussion of the due process procedures. To summarize, whenever a supervisor/mentor becomes aware of a Fellow's inadequate performance, a serious conflict, serious problem area, or serious deficiency that seems not to be resolvable by the usual supervisory support and intervention, it is called to the attention of the Co-Directors of Training. The Co-Directors of Training will gather information regarding this problem including, if appropriate, an initial discussion with the Fellow. The Co-Directors of Training will then present the situation in a meeting with the Fellowship Training Committee. A thorough review of the Fellow's work and performance will be conducted, and one or more meetings with the Fellow will be scheduled to hear his/her point of view. If a determination of inadequate performance/serious conflict is made, then a further decision is made by majority vote of the Fellowship Training Committee to either (1) construct a remediation plan which, if not successfully completed, would be grounds for termination; or (2) initiate the termination procedure. However, most cases of inadequate performance/serious conflict are resolved through a remediation plan. This document also provides guidelines to assist Fellows who wish to file complaints against staff members. Fellowship Training Directors are also available to consult with Fellows about any conflict with faculty.

## **Bedford Site, VISN 1 New England MIRECC Fellowship Faculty Interests**

**Victoria Ameral, Ph.D.:** Psychotherapy treatment development for addiction and co-occurring conditions, continuity of addiction treatment and Veteran experiences of care, harm reduction and recovery-oriented outcomes, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy interventions.

**Brian Stevenson, Ph.D.:** Developing vocational interventions that support meaningful employment goals and self-efficacy for veterans with addictions and co-occurring conditions, upstream interventions to prevent job loss, employer bias interventions, provision of recovery-oriented psychological services, harm reduction.

**Jay Gorman, Ph.D.:** Enhancing social connection and building support systems to improve treatment for Veterans with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders.

**Mo Modarres, Ph.D.:** Application of neuroimaging and data analysis techniques, particularly using EEG and fNIRS, to characterize and understand the brain mechanisms underlying neuro-psychiatric disorders.

**Andrew Peckham, Ph.D.:** Development and evaluation of cognitive remediation interventions in acute, naturalistic treatment settings. Expertise in cognitive mechanisms of serious mental illness.

**Erin D. Reilly, Ph.D.:** Development and evaluation of technology-delivered interventions (e.g., mobile apps, robotics, and websites) to assist with at-home self-management of chronic, comorbid mental and physical health conditions including (but not limited to) chronic pain, insomnia, PTSD, and depression.

**Megan M. Kelly, Ph.D.:** Development of mHealth and psychosocial treatment approaches for tobacco use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders; development of social support approaches using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy applications.

**Lisa Mueller, Ph.D.:** Developing interventions to address employment and education functioning in Veterans with addiction and mental health conditions as well as psychosocial challenges.

**Dongchan Park, M.D.:** Reducing systematic barriers in addressing substance use disorders and cross-cultural influences on the development of behavioral addictions.

## **Associated Programs & Resources**

### Psychology Services at VA Bedford Health Care System:

The VA Bedford Health Care System employs 42 psychologists along with a large number of associated staff. Psychologists are involved in a range of leadership positions around the hospital, many of whom are program directors within their respective areas. Staff areas of expertise are broad, with a particular emphasis on psychosocial rehabilitation, integrative psychotherapy, evidence-based practices, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). A number of Psychology Service-run programs have received national awards for innovation in psychosocial rehabilitation, many through the MIRECC. Staff psychologists are also active in a range of outside teaching and research at surrounding universities.





### UMass Chan Medical School

The mission of the UMass Chan Medical School is to advance the health and wellness of our diverse communities throughout Massachusetts and across the world by leading and innovating in education, research, health care delivery and public service. It is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the leading medical schools in the nation for primary care education. The research enterprise received approximately \$250 million in federal and private research grants and contracts in fiscal year 2018. The institution is committed to enhancing health and science education, ensuring community health, building a diverse workforce and enriching lives through extensive community outreach. Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, UMass Chan Medical School is one of five University of Massachusetts campuses.

### VISN 1 New England Knowledge Library

VISN1 Knowledge Library supports the VHA mission to provide exemplary healthcare to veterans, providing state of the art library support to both clinical and research services. VISN 1 KIS provides anticipatory knowledge services to the VA healthcare teams, support staff, and to patients and their family/caregivers to make informed healthcare decisions. VISN 1 Knowledge is a benchmark of information & knowledge excellence in healthcare by providing exemplary services that are patient-centered and evidence-based. These services are delivered by an engaged, collaborative team in an integrated environment supporting knowledge transfer, knowledge management, learning, research discovery and continuous improvement.

### **Seminars & Didactics**

Advanced educational experiences for all fellows will include the bimonthly national MIRECC Special Fellowship V-Tel Seminars. These seminars include a broad range of career-development oriented research topics, including those covering the latest research methodologies, biostatistics, intervention and services research, quality improvement methods, grant writing and funding, and career development awards.

On-site training will include the VISN 1 New England MIRECC, Bedford Site Research Meetings, which provides a forum for faculty and Fellows to present research ideas, discuss research issues, and develop grant reviews/applications. Fellows will also participate in the

weekly grant writing seminar series facilitated by investigators from both the Bedford MIRECC site and invited investigators from the CHOIR research center. The seminar series operates from fall until the end of the training year in the summer. Following the didactic portion of the seminar series, the remaining meetings are devoted to reviewing and revising participants' grant proposals. Fellows are also invited to attend broader VISN 1 MIRECC meetings which include investigators at both Bedford and West Haven; this provides for a wider circle of feedback from highly experienced VA investigators. During the first year, Fellows will also attend the series of seminars embedded in the Bedford VAMC psychology clinical residency program, which focus on topics including diversity, ethics, professional development, and supervision.

Optional trainings include regularly occurring lecture series and other formal training opportunities through VA Bedford Medical Center departments and University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

## **Clinical Skill Development**

There is a rich diversity of opportunities for fellows to receive advanced clinical training through Bedford VAMC programs that serve Veterans dually diagnosed with addictions and co-occurring mental health issues, medical conditions, and complex psychosocial stressors. In collaboration with their mentorship committee, Fellows select two sites per year where they will complete six-month clinical rotations. Below are common placements that MIRECC fellows choose for their clinical rotations, however, this is not an exhaustive list.

**Veterans Mental Health and Addictions Program (VMHAP):** VMHAP treats Veterans with substance use disorders on an outpatient basis through in person and virtual intensive outpatient and step-down care.

**Behavioral Addictions Clinic:** Treatments in this outpatient specialty mental health clinic typically include individual and group psychotherapies (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention). This clinic also provides training on behavioral addictions to staff in inpatient and outpatient treatment programs at the local and regional level.

**Tobacco Cessation Program:** The Tobacco Cessation Program offers comprehensive tobacco cessation services and uses an implementation facilitation model to fully integrate tobacco treatment across Bedford VAMC clinics.

**Domiciliary:** The Domiciliary is a 50-bed, inpatient biopsychosocial rehabilitation program with two tracks. DOM-SUD is a four week intensive addiction treatment program which does not require housing insecurity in order to participate. DOM-DCHV is a 90-day program designed specifically to support Veterans experiencing homelessness.

**78F Acute Inpatient Psychiatry:** 78F is an acute inpatient psychiatry unit. Veterans are admitted for brief crisis intervention, management of acute psychosis, or detoxification.



**Veterans Employment Resources Program:** The Veterans Employment Resources Program is an adjunct program to the clinical treatment team, supporting Veterans whose employment status has been impacted by homelessness, mental health issues, or vocational displacement. This is a placement option for MIRECC psychology Fellows.

**Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH):** PCBH is a patient-centered, team-based service integrating mental health and primary care. To ensure that Veterans have ready access to services that can address all aspects of health and wellness, PCBH services are on-site and available directly within the primary care setting.

**Mental Health Clinic Recovery Services:** Mental Health Clinic Recovery Services is the umbrella of outpatient mental health care available through the mental health clinic interdisciplinary teams, including psychiatric medications, individual and group therapy, and ongoing case management.

**Programs for Serious Mental Illness:** VA Bedford has three programs that serve veterans with serious mental illness (e.g., psychosis, bipolar disorder, MDD), often co-morbid with addictions: 1) the Community Residential Center (CRC) homes, 2) Program for Outpatient Wellness, Engagement, and Recovery (POWER), and 3) Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM).

**Safing Center:** This is a specialty mental health clinic focused on treatment and prevention of intimate partner violence. There is a strong emphasis on use of Veteran-centered, strengths based treatment from a psychosocial rehabilitation perspective. The Safing Center provides the resident with the opportunity to be part of innovative clinical work and programming to assist Veterans who have used and/or experienced aggression in relationships.

During their first year of the Fellowship, psychology Fellows will also be actively involved in the clinical supervision of less advanced psychology trainees (i.e., practicum students).

These clinical experiences prepare Fellows for licensure application in the state of Massachusetts. Licensure requirements for other states can typically be met if desired by the Fellow and discussed with the Training Directors.

### **Commitment to Diversity**

The VISN 1 MIRECC values the perspectives of diverse voices in the direction, planning, implementation, and interpretation of research as essential in informing clinical services that will serve all veterans. We fully support individuals with differences in lived experiences, cultural backgrounds, and other diversity factors as fellows, and provide research and educational opportunities relevant to equity and diversity, health care disparities, and the responsibility of all types of health care to be relevant and sensitive for all people.



## **Bedford, Massachusetts and Surrounding Area**

Bedford is a town in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, United States. It is within the Greater Boston area, 15 miles north-west of the city of Boston. The population of Bedford was 14,383 at the 2010 census. The area has easy access to the impressive research, academic, and other urban resources, including the rich history tourism in both Boston and the Northeast in general. The area provides access to a range of recreational opportunities, including beaches, lighthouses, and boating activities, mountains and skiing opportunities, hiking and nature trails, a wealth of museums, libraries, zoos, and educational opportunities for adults and children. Fellows can explore housing resources in a range from the urban, Boston area to rural Massachusetts and New Hampshire that are easily commutable to the VA Bedford Healthcare System.



## **Requirements**

In addition to the Eligibility Requirements listed on the VA psychology training homepage (<http://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>) and copied below, applicants for this Fellowship program must meet additional requirements, copied below.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment



1. U.S. Citizenship. HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.
2. 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.
3. 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. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation. All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required

background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.

5. Drug Testing. Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. VA will initiate termination of VA appointment for (1) any trainee who is found to use illegal drugs on the basis of a verified positive drug test, even if that drug is legal in the state where training occurs, and/or (2) any trainee who refuses to be drug tested. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below.

7. TQCVL. To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>

a. Health Requirements. Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine, influenza vaccine, and COVID-19 vaccine. Declinations are extremely rare. If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA. If you decline the COVID-19 vaccine, you will be required to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing, wear a mask, maintain distancing, and be subject to travel restrictions. HPTs 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 Fellowship Directors will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.

b. Primary source verification of all prior education and training is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.

8. Additional On-boarding 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 others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app->

forms.asp. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.

9. Proof of Identity per VA. VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: <https://vaww.oicam.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PIV-Credential-Identity-Verification-Matrix.pdf>

**Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year\***

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Residents	\$58,222 Year 1** ; \$61,032 Year 2**	
Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Residents	n/a	
Program provides access to medical insurance for resident?	Yes	
<b>If access to <span style="background-color: yellow;">medical</span> insurance is provided</b> (NOTE: FEDVIP (Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program) was expanded on 7/25/2023 per 5 CFR 894.302 to include trainees under the designation of “Temporary Employees with appointments of one year or less,” after a 90-day waiting period):		
Trainee contribution to cost required?	Yes	
Coverage of family member(s) available?	Yes	
Coverage of legally married partner available?	Yes	
Coverage of domestic partner available?		No. Health benefits are available to legally married partners regardless of partner sex. Unmarried partners of any sex are not eligible for health benefits.
Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	4 hours accrued per each 2-week full pay period for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year	
Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	4 hours accrued per each 2-week full pay period for a total of	

	between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year	
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	
<p>Other Benefits (please describe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fellows accrue 4 hours of sick leave and 4 hours of annual leave (vacation) for each full two week pay period, for a total of between 96 and 104 hours of each during the year.</li> <li>• In addition to the above leave, Fellows receive the 10 annual federal holidays.</li> <li>• Authorized absence (traveling off site for professional activities) is available for eligible events like academic conferences.</li> <li>• Liability protection for trainees: When providing professional services at a VA healthcare facility, VA sponsored trainees acting within the scope of their educational programs are protected from personal liability under the Federal Employees Liability Reform and Tort Compensation Act 28, U.S.C.2679 (b)-(d).</li> <li>• Fellows are eligible for life insurance.</li> </ul>		

\*Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table; \*\*Amount for 2023/2024 - we expect that the stipend will be no less than these amounts during Years 1 and 2.

**Specific Fellowship Eligibility requirements:**

1. Graduated from an American Psychological Association (APA) or Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology.
2. Completion of an APA accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology.

A stipend is provided both for the first year and second year of the program with a stipend increase in the second year. These stipends are reviewed biannually and are adjusted according to rates paid by comparable non-VA postdoctoral fellowship programs. For the 2024-25 training year, we expect that the stipend will be no less than \$58,222 for year one and \$61,032 in year two.

## Applications & Fellowship Site Contact Information

Interested applicants who meet the eligibility requirements should send the following materials to Dr. Victoria Ameral at [Victoria.Ameral@va.gov](mailto:Victoria.Ameral@va.gov) and Dr. Brian Stevenson at [Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov](mailto:Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov). A completed packet with all application materials (see below) is due on November 27, 2023.

Required Documents
Cover Letter (2 pages) specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your research interests and how they align with the MIRECC mission</li><li>• Research mentors you are interested in working with</li><li>• Previous experiences in clinical work, education, and research</li><li>• What you would like to accomplish during your fellowship and your long-term career goals.</li><li>• The names of your three recommendation letter writers</li></ul>
Curriculum Vitae
Work sample, such as a published or unpublished manuscript on which you are first author or other written product in which you were lead author (e.g., case report, manuals).
Graduate school transcripts (unofficial acceptable, official transcripts required if selected)
Three signed letters of recommendation. Include at least one letter from a research mentor and at least one letter from a clinical supervisor. Letters can be sent directly from the recommender or emailed with the completed application packet.

Videoconference / telephone interviews for this fellowship will occur in mid to late December. An in-person interview is not required. Fellowship start dates are typically set for the last week of August or the first week of September for a two-year period of fellowship training.

For further information, please contact the Psychology Fellowship Directors, Dr. Victoria Ameral at [Victoria.Ameral@va.gov](mailto:Victoria.Ameral@va.gov) or Dr. Brian Stevenson at [Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov](mailto:Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov).