



About Mercy Health - St. Rita's

Mercy Health – St. Rita's Medical Center is a nationally recognized, 424-bed regional medical center and Level II Trauma Center known for excellence in patient care, quality outcomes, and community impact. The medical center has earned numerous national recognitions, including IBM/Watson Health Top 100 Hospitals, Premier/Modern Healthcare 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals, and the ELSO Path to Excellence Silver Level Award for ECMO care.

Our internship's inpatient training site is located within St. Rita's Medical Center and is connected to our ambulatory clinics. The program is supported by the Outpatient Psychology Clinic and Graduate Medical Education.

Our Clinical Psychology Doctoral Internship offers:

- Training in a large regional medical center.
- Interprofessional learning alongside medical and pharmacy residents.
- Experience using the EPIC electronic health record.
- Supervision by experienced clinical psychologists across diverse settings.
- Opportunities to participate in dementia, ADHD, and autism screening clinics.

As one of the nation's largest health systems, Mercy Health serves communities across Ohio and Kentucky and ranks among the top 20% of U.S. health systems for quality and efficiency.

Our Team



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Clinical Psychology Doctoral Internship



Goals and Program Structure

Our health psychology-focused internship will provide learners with broad experience in clinical health psychology. Our graduates will have the knowledge and skill base needed to work closely with physicians and other medical providers. The intern will gain a clear understanding of the effects of medical disorders and therapies on behavior, and behavioral influences on health conditions. Training will focus on the skills needed to work in a variety of multidisciplinary teams within a medical setting. Interns will also develop strong differential diagnostic and assessment skills when working with the general population, and will treat outpatients in our clinic.

Interns will complete four, three-month long rotations, which include Pre-Surgical Psychological Assessment & Health Intervention, Neurorehabilitation Psychology, Integrated Behavioral Health in Family Medicine, and Mental Health and Assessment. Interns will also complete minor rotations in our neuropsychology clinic several days per month over the course of the 12 month long internship. They will gain skills in providing cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for pain and CBT for insomnia, working with individuals and groups. There may also be an opportunity to develop and lead a group in other health-related evidence-based topic of the intern's choice.



Rotations

Major Rotations

Pre-Surgical Psychological Assessment & Health Intervention

The Pre-Surgical Psychological Assessment Rotation provides interns with specialized training in the psychological evaluation and treatment of patients preparing for medical procedures, including bariatric surgery and spinal cord stimulator implantation. Interns conduct comprehensive pre-surgical psychological assessments to evaluate surgical readiness, identify psychosocial strengths and potential barriers to successful outcomes, and provide recommendations to interdisciplinary treatment teams. In addition, interns deliver evidence-based psychotherapy to promote behavior change, facilitate adjustment to medical conditions, enhance treatment adherence, and support optimal medical and surgical outcomes

Neurorehabilitation Psychology

The intern on the Neurorehabilitation Psychology will provide bedside evaluations and provide evidence-based psychological services within an acute rehab setting. Reasons for consultation include adjustment to strokes, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, competency evaluations, phantom limb pain, irritable bowel syndrome, motor vehicle accident victims requiring inpatient rehabilitation, and those with conversion disorders. Other opportunities include participation in rehab team meetings, co-facilitating weekly mindfulness groups, attending and providing staff trainings, and co- training with medical students and residents. Interns will also carry a small outpatient general mental health caseload during this rotation.

Mental Health and Assessment

The Mental Health and Assessment Rotation provides interns with advanced training in diagnostic interviewing, psychological assessment, case conceptualization, treatment planning, and evidence-based psychotherapy. As the department's primary outpatient behavioral health clinic, this rotation offers experience working with a diverse patient population presenting with a wide range of mental health concerns. Interns provide individual psychotherapy under supervision while developing competency in evidence-based interventions, including Written Exposure Therapy (WET) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for trauma-related disorders. Regular individual supervision supports clinical skill development, case conceptualization, and consultation on complex clinical presentations.

Integrated Behavioral Health in Family Medicine

The Integrated Behavioral Health in Family Medicine Rotation provides interns with specialized training in the delivery of behavioral health services within an integrated primary care setting. Embedded within a family medicine residency clinic, interns work collaboratively with physicians, residents, and other healthcare professionals to provide evidence-based assessment, consultation, and brief interventions for patients presenting with a wide range of behavioral health concerns. Interns gain experience managing both scheduled behavioral health appointments and same-day "warm handoff" consultations, developing skills in interdisciplinary collaboration, population-based care, and the delivery of efficient, patient-centered psychological services within a fast-paced medical environment.

Rotations

Minor Rotations

Neuropsychology Clinic

Interns will complete two days per month in the psychology testing clinic for 12 months. They will gain experience administering and scoring neuropsychological assessments under the supervision of licensed psychologists. Referral questions may include learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, dementia, and diagnostic clarification. Interns will also participate in protected group supervision two days per month to review cases, discuss assessment findings, and support the development of neuropsychological assessment skills.

Health Psychology Groups

Interns will also be co-facilitating groups focused on pain management, and cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-i). Each intern will experience at least one full cycle of pain management groups, and one full round of our CBT-I group protocol.



HOW TO APPLY

The program uses the application provided by APPIC and is available at their website, <http://www.appic.org/>.

The application and all supporting documentation is submitted electronically through APPIC.

All applications must be submitted by November 5th each year.