**Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data**

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TABLES**

**Date Program Tables Updated: 16 Aug 2023**

**Internship Program Admissions**

The Clinical Psychology Internship Program at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center (WHASC) is based on a scientist-practitioner approach to understanding human behavior and providing psychological services. The purpose of the WHASC psychology internship program is to prepare competent psychologists to provide empirically-validated mental health care services to military members and their families and to provide effective consultation to military leaders on issues related to military members’ fitness for duty as well as risks to the public health of the local Air Force base community.

We intend our training activities to produce “generalist” clinicians who use careful, critical thinking skills to apply scientific evidence to the practice of psychology. We expect trainees to base their clinical decision making and treatments on strong empirical evidence when it is available. This critical thinking combined with a reliance on empirical science helps trainees minimize the inherent bias present in all human thinking, promotes the use of the most effective clinical strategies for patient care, and encourages the advancement of psychology as a health care profession.

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center’s (WHASC) Clinical Psychology training program provides training in all of the profession wide competencies (i.e., research, ethics and legal standards, individual and cultural diversity, professional values and attitudes, communication and interpersonal skills, assessment, intervention, supervision, and consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills) as required by APA standards of accreditation. Additionally, WHASC provides program specific competency training in population health and officer development.

**Required Minimum Number of Clinical Hours**

*Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application?*  Yes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *If Yes, indicate how many*: |  | Amount |
| Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours | No | N/A |
| Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours | No | N/A |
| Overall Total Direct Contact Hours | **Yes** | **500** |

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center’s (WHASC) Clinical Psychology training program requires a completed ***minimum of 500 face-to-face hours*** of supervised practicum experience by the time the application is submitted. Our training program does not require a specific breakdown or percentage of intervention hours to assessment hours to meet the minimum of 500 face-to-face hours requirement. Furthermore, we do not require a specific breakdown or percentage of in-person face to face vs. virtual/telehealth face to face though do expect the majority of hours to have been completed in-person, subject to local health policies.

**Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants**:

The United States Air Force offers up to 28 fully funded one-year intern positions in clinical psychology across three training sites (WHASC, Malcolm Grow Medical Center, and Wright Patterson Medical Center). The Air Force welcomes applications from all qualified persons who meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a U.S. citizen.
2. Meet the health and fitness requirements for commissioning in the United States Air Force as determined by medical history and physical examination.
3. Meet the standards for issuance of a secret security clearance as determined by history and background investigation.
4. Satisfactorily complete all academic and practica requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D. in clinical, counseling, or combined professional-scientific psychology from an **APA-accredited graduate program** (Air Force Instruction 44-119, 7.9.2.1). This includes, at a minimum, the completion of preliminary and comprehensive examinations and doctoral dissertation proposal approval.
5. Be ready for internship as certified by the Director of Clinical Training at their graduate program.
6. Dissertation progress is a factor in the selection process. Completion of the dissertation prior to internship is **strongly** encouraged to allow for full participation in the wealth of training opportunities available during the internship.

Eligibility for commissioning as a United States Military Officer requires robust health as defined by a health history free of specified impediments, current physical strength/endurance tests, and impeccable moral character as defined by a life history free of impediment (specified list of exclusions related to ethical violations, personal finance/credit management, contacts with governmental authorities and law enforcement agencies, etc.) The main point of contact for questions regarding fitness for duty is a Health Professions recruiter from the Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS). The Health Professions recruiter is authorized to screen for health, fitness, and legal conditions that may be disqualifying for service. To find your nearest recruiter, visit the following website:

<https://www.airforce.com/find-a-recruiter>

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

Interns receive the rank, pay and benefits of an Air Force Captain, including competitive base salary,

tax-free housing allowance based on regional cost of living, monthly food assistance, family medical

coverage and optional family dental package, and time off including 30-paid vacation days plus all

federal holidays. For specific salary and benefits, see the [*Military Pay Charts*](http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/militarymembers.html) (note salary is based on

basic pay, housing allowance for San Antonio Texas, and monthly food assistance payment).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Annual Stipend/Salary Full Time Interns ***with dependents***: | $87, 281 ($7, 273 per month) |
| Annual Stipend/Salary Full Time Interns ***without dependents***: | $86, 921 ($7, 243per month) |
| Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-Time Interns: | N/A |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Program provides access to medical insurance for intern?** | Yes |
| **Trainee contribution to cost required?** | No |
| **Coverage of family member(s) available?** | Yes |
| **Coverage of legally married partner available?** | Yes |
| **Coverage of domestic partner available?** | No |
| **Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation?** | Yes |
| **Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave** | No |
| **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:** Tricare, the medical insurance for military members, does require a relatively small

annual deductible for individuals ($156) and family members/dependents for TRICARE Select ($313 per

family). Look at Tricare’s website: <https://www.tricare.mil/Costs/HealthPlanCosts/PrimeOptions> for

more information. Military members earn 30 days of paid leave per year (2.5 days per month). This is

in addition tofederal holidays or military family days (i.e., days when senior military leaders grant

permission to havea day-off for service members). However, please note that interns are only allowed 14 days away from training in addition to federal holidays and military family days. If the medical condition preventsa service member from reporting to work for more than a single day, the service member will be evaluated by a medical professional and placed on convalescent leave (i.e., sick leave) for the appropriate amount of time. Therefore, service members do not accrue paid hours of sick leave. If necessary, it is permissible to take a medical leave of absence to receive appropriate treatment (e.g., cancer treatment, convalescent leave after child birth). All medical leave is paid. For medical situations involving service members, family members or dependents, it is important to note that if additional time is approved away from training (i.e., more than 14 days) it will result in a

necessary extension in training to make sure all program requirements are completed. Another great benefit is that Air Force offers incentive bonuses for psychologists. Psychologists are eligible to receive

additional pay for licensure ($5,000) and ABPP certification ($6,000) for a total salary increase of

$11,000 annually.

**Initial Post-Internship Positions**

|  |
| --- |
|  2019-2022 |
| Total # of interns who were in the three cohorts | 32 |
| Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral program/are completing doctoral degree | 0 |
|  | PD | ED |
| Community Mental Health CenterFederally Qualified Health CenterIndependent Primary Care Facility/ClinicUniversity Counseling CenterVeterans Affairs Medical CenterMilitary Health CenterAcademic Health CenterOther Medical Center or HospitalPsychiatric HospitalAcademic University/DepartmentCommunity College or other Teaching SettingIndependent Research InstitutionCorrectional FacilitySchool District/SystemIndependent Practice SettingNot Currently employedChanged to Another FieldOtherUnknown | 0000000000000000000 | 00000320000000000000 |

The position of clinical psychologist in the Air Force is comparable to that of many civilian psychologists. Duties primarily depend upon the needs of the individual clinic or the Air Force community in which one works. Depending upon one's interests or skills, even in initial duty assignments, Air Force psychologists are typically given levels of responsibility and autonomy rarely seen in other contexts, and the WHASC internship program prepares interns to effectively transition into their role as AF psychologists. The initial assignment invariably provides a superb foundation for a future military, or civilian, clinical psychology career.