

Postdoctoral Fellowships Forensic Psychology

Mendota Mental Health Institute
and
Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

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Program overview

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology aims to produce psychologists with a comprehensive understanding of the interaction between psychology and the law, and who are capable of assuming positions in a variety of forensic settings. This goal is accomplished through practical experiences (forensic evaluation, expert testimony, and treatment) in combination with a variety of seminar and didactic experiences.

Four one-year postdoctoral fellowship positions are available.

- One paid fellowship is available at Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI). This training track focusing primarily on competency evaluations and treatment, risk assessment, supplementary mental examinations, supervision of psychology trainees (such as psychology interns and practicum students), and other forensic-related evaluations.
- One paid fellowship is available at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC). This training track focusing primarily sex offense-specific treatment and evaluation, competency evaluations, and other forensic-related treatment and evaluations.
- Two paid fellowships are available in the SRSTC and MMHI combined training track focused on forensic psychology and the above activities.

The fellowships are designed to satisfy the postdoctoral supervised experience hour requirements for licensure. The programs are designed to provide a thorough training experience in forensic psychology consisting of approximately:

- 75% applied clinical forensic experiences.
- 15% seminars and educational experiences.
- 10% research or program evaluation.

Additionally, the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology is approved for the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) postdoctoral training experience waiver.

Training rotations

Program 1: MMHI

This fellowship track is entirely based at MMHI, located in Madison, Wisconsin. MMHI has 18 forensic units encompassing all security levels (maximum, medium, and minimum). MMHI also has an American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited internship, as well as practicum psychology students and a summer criminal justice internship. The primary responsibility of the fellow at MMHI will be to conduct forensic evaluations. These evaluations will consist of the following:

- **Competency to stand trial evaluations/treatment:** Competency to stand trial referrals include two types of evaluations: initial pretrial evaluation or re-evaluation of competency to stand trial after an initial finding of incompetence. The fellow will be the primary author on evaluations and is expected to testify in court, if needed. The fellow will also facilitate individual and group competency remediation and be a member of a multidisciplinary team on a competency unit.

- **Risk assessments:** Risk assessments are conducted at MMHI for treatment planning purposes, to determine whether a patient is appropriate for transfer to a less secure unit within the hospital, and/or whether the patient may receive food service, on-grounds, and/or community privileges. These may include psychosexual evaluations. The fellow will be expected to complete three risk assessments during the training year.
- **Supplemental mental exams/conditional release letters:** The fellow may have an opportunity to complete a supplemental mental examination on a defendant adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect (NGI) to determine if their commitment should begin inpatient or on community release. Although rare, the fellow may also be asked to write letters to assist courts in determining community placement for patients adjudicated NGI. These letters include the mental health status of patient, risks associated with placement, need for treatment, and the patient's preparedness for conditional release.

Additional required activities for the fellow:

- The MMHI fellow is expected to participate in a one-hour mock trial during the fellowship year if they have not actually testified for a case already or as determined as appropriate by the training director.
- The fellow is also actively involved in co-facilitating group supervision with a licensed psychologist for the psychology interns, as well as has other experiences providing supervision to the other psychology trainees in the institute.
- Participation in trainings and journal clubs facilitated by MMHI psychology and psychiatry staff along with outside professionals, this includes the risk assessment seminar involving training on various risk assessment instruments.

If the fellow is interested, there are also optional experiences available in the individual and/or group treatment of NGI patients, as well as the assessment and treatment of youth who are adjudicated delinquent. In addition, the fellow can become involved in the substance use treatment program, dialectical behavior therapy program, and/or behavioral specific treatment for sexual offending at MMHI, if interested.

Program 2: SRSTC

This fellowship track accepts one fellow per training year. The fellowship is at SRSTC in Mauston, Wisconsin, and at the SRSTC evaluation unit, which is located on the grounds of MMHI in Madison. The fellow is expected to travel to Mauston three days a week. Travel reimbursement is provided. A significant portion of the fellowship will be focused on Wis. Stat. ch. 980 sexual violence risk evaluation. The SRSTC evaluation team is based in an office building on the grounds of MMHI in Madison. The fellow will receive in-depth training in two major areas: treatment and evaluation.

Treatment

Sex offense treatment: Training will involve learning about and implementing cutting-edge, evidenced-based sex offense treatment for those who are civilly committed under Wis. Stat. ch. 980 (sexually violent persons law). This includes co-facilitating treatment groups, providing individual treatment, and developing comprehensive treatment plans that address dynamic risk factors, protective factors, and specific learning styles.

Mental health treatment: The fellow may have an opportunity to provide group or individual treatment for those adjudicated NGI so an individual can successfully transition into community release. Diagnoses in this group include, but are not limited to, severe mental illness and neurodevelopmental disorders (example: Autism Spectrum Disorder).

Evaluation

Sexually violent person evaluations: The fellows will receive intensive training in sexual offense risk assessment and research. Formal training will be provided on the STATIC-99R, VRS-SO, PCL-R, and other measures. The fellows are expected to complete two shadow evaluations using different dynamic risk factor instruments. After completion of the shadow evaluation, the fellow will provide two intensive day-long expert testimonies in mock trials.

Competency to stand trial evaluations: Competency to stand trial referrals include two types of evaluations: initial pretrial evaluation or re-evaluation of competency to stand trial after an initial finding of incompetence. The fellow will be the primary author on evaluations and is expected to testify in court, if needed.

Risk assessments: Risk assessments are conducted at SRSTC to determine a patient's specific treatment targets and the need for more intense treatment services. The fellow will be expected to complete three risk assessments during the training year.

In addition, throughout the course of training with SRSTC, the fellows assigned to this track will also participate in:

- A weekly or biweekly book discussion regarding sexual development, sexual offending, and stigma.
- A course on biases in forensic decision making.
- Didactic presentations on topics central and peripheral to the field of sexual offending.
- Weekly treatment team meetings where they will conduct relevant literature reviews, do case consultations, and formulate strategies for working with specialized populations (examples: psychopathy, personality disorders, autism spectrum disorders, etc.).
- Training on scoring the Static-99R, Stable-2007, Violence Risk Scale-Sexual Offense Version, Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, and the HCR-20.
- Training on ethical leadership.

Program 3: SRSTC and MMHI

This fellowship track accepts two fellows per training year. The first three months of training involve learning about and implementing evidence-based treatment of individuals deemed sexually violent persons (SVP). The individuals are committed for treatment under Wis. Stat. ch. 980 and reside at SRSTC in Mauston. The fellow is expected to travel to Mauston four days per week during this three-month period. Travel reimbursement is provided.

For the next three months, training continues with SRSTC but is solely focused on Wis. Stat. ch. 980 sexual violence risk evaluation. The SRSTC evaluation team is based in an office building on the grounds of MMHI in Madison. During this three-month rotation, the fellows are expected

to complete one shadow SVP evaluation report and participate in an intensive one-day mock trial. Additionally, the fellow will participate in:

- A weekly or biweekly book discussion regarding sexual development, sexual offending, and stigma.
- A course on biases in forensic decision making.
- Didactic presentations on topics central and peripheral to the field of sexual offending.
- Training on scoring the Static-99R, Stable-2007, Violence Risk Scale-Sexual Offense Version, Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised, and the HCR-20.

The remaining six months of training in Program 3 will occur at MMHI in Madison. The primary responsibility of the fellows at MMHI will be to conduct forensic evaluations. These evaluations will consist of the following:

- **Competency to stand trial evaluations/treatment:** Competency to stand trial referrals include two types of evaluations: initial pretrial evaluation or re-evaluation of competency to stand trial after an initial finding of incompetence. The fellow will be the primary author on evaluations and is expected to testify in court, if needed. The fellow will also facilitate individual and group competency remediation and be a member of a multidisciplinary team on a competency unit.
- **Risk assessments:** Risk assessments are conducted at MMHI for treatment planning purposes, to determine whether a patient is appropriate for transfer to a less secure unit within the hospital, and/or whether the patient may receive food service, on-grounds, and/or community privileges. These may include psychosexual evaluations. The fellow will be expected to complete three risk assessments during this rotation.
- **Supplemental mental exams/conditional release letters:** The fellow may have an opportunity to complete a supplemental mental examination on a defendant adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect (NGI) to determine if their commitment should begin inpatient or on community release. In addition, although rare, the fellow may be asked to write letters to assist courts in determining community placement for patients adjudicated NGI. These letters include the mental health status of patient, risks associated with placement, need for treatment, and the patient's preparedness for conditional release.

Additional required activities for the MMHI rotation:

- The fellow will be actively involved in co-facilitating group supervision with a licensed psychologist for the psychology interns and will have other experiences providing supervision to the other psychology trainees at the institute.
- The fellow will participate in trainings and journal clubs facilitated by MMHI psychology and psychiatry staff along with outside professionals. This includes the risk assessment seminar involving training on various risk assessment instruments.

If the fellow is interested, there are also optional experiences available at MMHI in the individual and/or group treatment of NGI patients, as well as the assessment and treatment of youth who are adjudicated delinquent. In addition, the fellow who is interested can become involved in the substance use treatment program, dialectical behavior therapy program, and/or behavioral-specific treatment for sexual offending at MMHI.

Seminar/didactic experiences

All fellows are expected to attend a series of seminars throughout the training year. The seminars entail a significant amount of reading in areas of forensic psychology.

- **Forensic seminar:** This seminar is held weekly to biweekly for 1.5 to three hours. Psychologists and psychiatrists who are employed by a variety of public and private agencies will teach on a variety of topics, including forensic ethics, competency to stand trial, the insanity defense, child custody, and ethics.
- **Landmark case seminar:** This seminar is held weekly to biweekly for one to two hours and is facilitated by an MMHI psychologist or psychiatrist. The seminar follows the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Forensic Psychology recommended reading list and provides in-depth analysis of national and state cases that have shaped the practice of forensic psychology. Fellows are expected to contribute to the seminar by preparing and presenting brief case summaries. The goal of this seminar is to prepare fellows for the ABPP Forensic Psychology written examination.

SRSTC and MMHI have active training departments with several workshops and training sessions during the course of the year. Depending on the interest of the fellow, additional educational experiences can be arranged. If the fellow is interested in teaching, they will have the opportunity to conduct one or more seminars for the predoctoral internship program at MMHI, which is approved by APA. Fellows can also attend didactics available to the MMHI psychology internship program if interested.

Supervision

The fellowship program is committed to providing conscientious supervision so the fellow can receive the most from their training experience. The fellow can expect to receive a minimum of two hours of supervision weekly. Additionally, all reports submitted to the court will be reviewed and cosigned by the primary supervisor. If the fellow is called to testify, their primary supervisor will be available to accompany them if needed.

Optional experiences

Fellows may engage in a clinical research project of their choosing. Fellows have several choices in how to facilitate this aspect of the training. MMHI and SRSTC have several ongoing research projects, including malingering in competency evaluations, violence risk assessment, and diagnostic issues related to competency to stand trial, as well as treatment outcome measures. The fellow is welcome to join these existing projects. Alternatively, the fellow may develop a small research study in a specific area of interest. SRSTC and MMHI have a large amount of archival data that can be used to generate a research study.

Evaluations

Fellows will meet with the director of the fellowship program and/or their current supervisor(s) mid-rotation and at the end of the rotation to receive both oral and written feedback regarding their performance during that period of time.

Faculty

The following staff manage the fellowship program.

Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D.

Psychology Director and Director of Clinical Training, MMHI

Clinical interests: Competency evaluation and restoration, individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, evaluation of juveniles, patients with developmental disabilities and cognitive/behavioral treatment.

Gregory Van Rybroek, Ph.D., J.D.

Director, MMHI

Clinical interests: Management and treatment of aggressive patients, interrelationship of psychology/psychiatry and law, and antisocial personalities.

Lakshmi (Luck) Subramanian, Ph.D.

Chapter 980 Evaluation Director, SRSTC

Clinical interests: Sexually violent person evaluations, healthy/normal sexuality, time perspective, and ethical leadership.

Jason Smith, Psy.D.

Clinical Director, SRSTC

Clinical interests: Treatment of sex offenders, clinical evaluations, and administration of clinical programs.

The following staff also are part of the fellowship program.

Danielle Calas, Psy.D.

Psychologist, MMHI

Clinical interests: Forensic evaluations and competency evaluations.

Ana Garcia, Ph.D.

Psychologist, MMHI

Clinical interests: Individual and group therapy, forensic psychology, competency evaluations, risk assessments, supplemental mental examinations, and cognitive/behavioral treatment.

Katelyn Grusecki, Psy.D.

Psychologist, MMHI

Clinical interests: Competency evaluations, risk assessments, neuropsychological assessments, sex offender evaluations, and individual therapy.

Stefany Trevino, Psy.D.

Psychologist, MMHI

Clinical interests: Psychological assessment, risk assessment, sex offender assessment and treatment, psychotherapy, group therapy, and forensic psychiatric populations.

Jeffrey Washelesky, Psy.D.

Psychologist, MMHI

Clinical interests: Psychological assessment, competency evaluation and treatment, sex offender evaluations, and forensic psychiatric populations.

Stipend

Each fellow receives a stipend of \$72,439. Fellows are limited term employees (LTEs).

According to Wis. Stat. ch. 230, LTEs are not allowed paid leave time. However, as approved by the director of clinical training, fellows are compensated for certain outside activities related to their work as a forensic psychology fellow for a minimum of 20 days to use for time away from the facility. This includes licensure exam study time and other professional development activities (for example: review of articles, submission of articles, attending trainings, providing trainings, and advocacy work). Health and dental insurance are not provided.

Application requirements

Applicants must have a Ph.D./Psy.D. in clinical or counseling psychology. Evidence must be provided that the individual has completed all aspects of their graduate program or will have prior to the onset of the fellowship. In addition, applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing an American Psychological Association-approved predoctoral internship.

Previous forensic mental health experience is unnecessary; however, successful applicants typically have had some previous exposure to the field. Experience working with individuals with chronic and severe mental illness is necessary. Experience in psychological assessment is a critical prerequisite.

Direct questions about these fellowships to Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D.

- Email: Karyn.GustBrey@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Phone: 608-301-1533

Applicants should submit the following as part of their fellowship application. Applications are due January 2, 2026. Applications can be emailed to Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D.

- Full curriculum vitae
- A statement of purpose (one–two pages) providing the following:
 - Interest in forensic psychology
 - Reason for applying to the forensic fellowship
 - Previous experience in forensic psychology
 - Previous experience working with mentally ill adults

- Sanitized (all identifying information removed) assessment/forensic evaluation

Arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D., by email (at least one from an internship supervisor).

Materials should be forwarded to:

Karyn Gust-Brey, Ph.D.
Director of Clinical Training
Mendota Mental Health Institute
301 Troy Drive
Madison, WI 53704