



The Predoctoral Externship Training Program in Rehabilitation Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology

Dear Prospective Applicant,

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Human Performance at The Mount Sinai Medical Center is pleased to announce its Doctoral Externship Training Program in Rehabilitation Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology for 2024-2025. The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine is dedicated to providing trainees unique opportunities to work in a large, diverse, urban medical center, with a special emphasis on assessment and treatment of individuals with a range of physical and cognitive disabilities. Internationally recognized as a leader in brain injury and spinal cord injury research and clinical care, the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine places a particular emphasis on providing services to individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, limb loss or other disorders of the nervous system.

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine follows the application guidelines set forth by PSYDNYS and NYNJADOT. Our Department requires students to complete health screening, background check, and drug testing before the start of the externship.

We are excited that you are considering the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine as a part of your doctoral training experience, and we encourage you to read this brochure thoroughly to learn more about our comprehensive program.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Breed, Ph.D.
Director of Training in Clinical Psychology



INTRODUCTION

Housed within the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine's Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Center, our externship offers **2-3** externship positions in acute inpatient rehabilitation psychology for the 2024-2025 academic year. The goal of our externship is to expose externs to an inpatient multidisciplinary approach to patient care, and to provide them with unique training opportunities in areas of trauma, medical disability, brain injury, spinal cord injury, limb loss, behavioral medicine, brief neuropsychological assessment, and cognitive remediation. Upon completion of their training year, externs will have a greater understanding of how – in the acute phase of recovery – physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities may impact functioning at the individual, familial, and societal levels.

THE MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION CENTER

The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Center is one of several mini-hospitals located within Mount Sinai Medical Center that focus on caring for patients with similar rehabilitation needs. In addition to its comprehensive Acute Care and Outpatient Services, The Rehabilitation Center has two major inpatient rehabilitation programs: Our “Functional” program focused on the needs of individuals with primarily functional disabilities (e.g., spinal cord injury), while our “Cognitive” program focuses on the needs of individuals with primarily cognitive disabilities (e.g., traumatic brain injury, stroke). We also have a “Medically Complex” program which addresses general rehabilitation needs of individuals following debilitating medical illnesses and surgical interventions (e.g., organ transplants, cardiac surgery, joint replacements, multiple sclerosis, etc.). Services are provided to primarily to adults, and some older adolescents. The Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredits five of Mount Sinai's inpatient specialty programs: SCI, TBI, Stroke, Amputation, and Medically Complex. The Rehabilitation Center is also home to the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine's *APA-accredited Pre-Doctoral Internship in Clinical Psychology*.

As of this writing, our Inpatient Rehabilitation program is housed in Mount Sinai's East Campus, in the Klingenstein Clinical Center at 1450 Madison Avenue. However, sometime in the second half of 2024 the Department will move to a new facility housed at Mount Sinai Morningside, on the Upper at approximately 114th street and Amsterdam Avenue. The exact date for our move is unclear, but prospective externs should know that it will happen at some point during the course of the 2024-2025 externship year.

FRAMEWORK

During the training year externs will be supervised by three inpatient training faculty across the two services:

While on the Cognitive service, externs will work closely with staff psychologists to gain a deeper understanding of assessment and treatment of patients in the acute phase of recovery from traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries. Our most common diagnosis are: stroke (ischemic and hemorrhagic), traumatic brain injury, intracranial tumors (benign and malignant), and anoxic encephalopathy. Trainees will be exposed to neuropsychological assessment and treatment, themselves conducting brief neurocognitive screenings and focal batteries to identify brain injury-related cognitive deficits. Clinical responsibilities will also include individual supportive therapy, family therapy, and cognitive remediation, in group and individual formats. Externs will also have the opportunity to conduct brief neuropsychological assessment batteries as part of a research protocol in the inpatient setting.

While on the Functional service, externs will be exposed to a diverse population of patients with physical disabilities. The primary focus of this rotation is clinical assessment and treatment, with externs providing individual supportive therapy to patients and families. Externs will also see a variety of medically-complex patients, suffering from a wide range of neurological, orthopedic, cardiac, medical, and traumatic injuries. Common impairments include spinal cord injury, limb loss, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and those who have undergone organ transplant. Clinical responsibilities will also include individual supportive therapy, family therapy, and the opportunity to participate in an SCI adjustment group led by a senior clinician. Although limited in scope, externs will conduct brief neurocognitive screenings and focal batteries to help differentiate cognitive deficits related to dementia, acquired brain injuries, metabolic disturbances, and/or neurological conditions.

Externs will be involved in approximately **8-10 hours/week** of direct patient contact while on their respective rotations.

SUPERVISION & DIDACTICS

Externs will receive 1 hour/week of individual supervision from licensed psychologists on their respective inpatient rotations. They will also receive one hour of group supervision, which is provided by our licensed staff and, as the training year progresses, from pre-doctoral interns. Didactics include a bi-weekly seminar on rehabilitation psychology which is shared with the interns and postdoctoral fellows, and a lecture series in clinical neuropsychology which includes trainees from across the Mount Sinai Health System. Other experiences *may* include (schedules permitting) multidisciplinary rounds and Department of Rehabilitation Medicine Grand Rounds.

INPATIENT FACULTY:

Sabrina Breed, Ph.D. – Dr. Breed is the Director of the Predoctoral Internship, and a Senior Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Breed serves as a supervisor of trainees on the inpatient brain injury service, and is a presenter at select seminars within the training program. Dr. Breed received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Rehabilitation Research in the Department. Her clinical interests include acute treatment of individuals with brain injury, psychosocial adjustment after brain injury, aging with a disability, program development for individuals with brain injury, and work in group modalities.

Angela Riccobono, Ph.D. – Dr. Riccobono is a Senior Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Riccobono's area of clinical specialization is acute treatment of individuals with spinal cord injury. She supervises trainees on the inpatient spinal cord service and is a presenter at select seminars within the internship program. Her primary interest is the psychosocial and adjustment issues of individuals with SCI, particularly the areas of family adjustment, parenting, and sexuality after spinal cord injury. Dr. Riccobono provides leadership and consultation for SCI programming on both inpatient and outpatient services, particularly the Do-It, Life Challenge, and Peer Mentoring programs. Other interests include health psychology, psychotherapeutic group interventions, and spirituality and psychotherapy. Dr. Riccobono received her Doctorate in Health Psychology from Yeshiva University.

As of this writing, a third faculty position is being filled.

REQUIREMENTS:

Our externship is accepting applications from current doctoral students from clinical, counseling, neuropsychological, rehabilitation, school, or health psychology programs. We have a preference for advanced doctoral students. All applicants must have at least one year of prior psychological testing experience **and** at least 2 years of prior doctoral-level clinical experience. While prior neuropsychological testing experience is preferred, it is not required. Externs must be available **20-hours/week**, distributed over 3 days that are not sequential (i.e., M/Th/F is satisfactory, but not W/Th/F). All externs must be on site on Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 5:00pm for Didactic Seminars and Group Supervision.

The externship will begin in July, 2024, with externs expected to start the first week full week following Independence Day. The program will formally run through June, 2025.

If you are interested in applying, please send – **via email** – a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, a work sample (intake or testing report), and 2 letters of recommendation, addressed to:

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