

The externship program is designed for doctoral students in psychology who are interested in developing their clinical skills in neuropsychological assessment and building their knowledge of brain-behavior relationships. This externship is offered through the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Staten Island University Hospital, which provides services to patients across the lifespan. It is an ideal setting for externs to gain experience working with a wide variety of presenting concerns and a broad range of psychological, neuropsychological and neurological diagnoses. This externship requires 16 hours/week on site commitment. The externship offers three distinct tracks: Outpatient Neuropsychology, Inpatient Rehabilitation and Brain Injury, and Health Psychology at Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation program.

Outpatient Neuropsychology Service: The outpatient extern will see patients across the lifespan referred by a wide range of sources, including the physicians within the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Adult and Pediatric Emergency Medicine Trauma Services, Adult Neurology, Developmental Pediatrics, Pediatric Neurology, Psychiatry, Oncology, Neurosurgery, VESID, and professionals in the community. If interested, externs can observe and participate in multi-disciplinary evaluations of infants and toddlers to assess for developmental delay and can focus a portion of their experience in pediatrics in order to develop skills in the evaluation and diagnosis of children with a wide range of conditions including epilepsy, ADHD, learning disability, and Autistic Spectrum Disorders. In addition to neuropsychological assessment and report writing, the provision of feedback to physicians, patients and families will be an integral part of the supervised experience.

Inpatient Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Unit: Externs will conduct bedside evaluations of adult inpatients requiring comprehensive multidisciplinary inpatient rehabilitation. Diagnostic exposure may include traumatic brain injury (TBI), stroke, tumors, dementia, and related neurologic disorders with cognitive sequelae. Externs will develop skills in clinical interviewing as well as assessment of cognition and mood through test administration, scoring, interpretation, brief and targeted report writing, and provision of feedback.

Health Psychology at Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Concentration: This clinical training experience will be focused on the areas of Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Health Psychology. Externs will be members of an interdisciplinary team of the Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. Responsibilities will include conducting diagnostic and specialized health assessments, providing individual and group psychotherapy, and participating in management of acute and chronic medical conditions, including cardiovascular and pulmonary conditions. Training will focus on consultation and brief treatment competencies essential to providing psychological services in outpatient medical settings. Externs will utilize the stages of change model and use behavioral interviewing and stress management techniques to help patients modify their cardiac and pulmonary risk behaviors.