



SUNY Downstate Medical Center Department of Neurology Externship in Clinical Neuropsychology

The Department of Neurology at State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center offers a neuropsychology externship for psychology graduate students. The externs will receive training in psychological and neuropsychological assessment that includes interviews, test administration, scoring, interpretation, report writing, and providing feedback.

Didactics include Neurology Grand Rounds, epilepsy surgery conference, neurobehavioral conference, clinical case presentations, pediatric case conferences and rounds, monthly journal club, as well as discussions of various topics specific to neuropsychology.

There are two positions available:

Adult Track (1 extern) - This placement is focused on neuropsychological assessment of adults, primarily outpatients, with a wide range of neurological conditions, with an emphasis on epilepsy (e.g., pre- and post-surgical evaluations; characterization of cerebral dysfunction associated with epilepsy) and MCI/dementia. Other populations include TBI, stroke, ADHD, and patients with cognitive impairments in the context of chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, as well as those with psychiatric conditions. Training includes cross-cultural evaluations. Externs will also have opportunities to observe Wada and cortical mapping procedures. Opportunities to conduct independent research projects or assist in research conducted by faculty are available. The student works under close supervision of Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist, Dr. Luba Nakhutina, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, Director of Neuropsychology Service. Student must be available on Thursdays and Fridays.

Pediatric Track (1 extern) - The trainee's experience will focus on neurodevelopmental disorders and brain-behavior functioning in children, adolescents, and young adults. In this outpatient setting, the patient population presents with a wide variety of functional impairments secondary to neurological, neurodevelopmental, psychiatric, and comorbid conditions. This may include cerebral palsy, epilepsy, headaches, head injury, congenital malformations, CNS tumors, autism, learning disabilities, ADHD, language impairments, and mood disorders. Trainees may also have the opportunity to participate in clinical research and behavior interventions (Applied Behavior Analysis, Social Skills Training) for children with autism spectrum disorder. The student works under close supervision of Dr. Emily Kurlansik, Psy.D., BCBA NCSP, Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and Certified School Psychologist, in the Division of Pediatric Neurology. Students must be available on Thursdays.

Applications are being accepted for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please contact Dr. Luba Nakhutina at luba.nakhutina@downstate.edu for further information.

Interested applicants are required to submit:

1. letter of interest
2. letter of readiness
3. CV
4. Writing sample (i.e., clinical report)
5. 2 letters of recommendation

Applications can be submitted by email or via externship portal.

Adult track: luba.nakhutina@downstate.edu; Pediatric track: emily.kurlansik@downstate.edu