

# **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.

Three one-year postdoctoral fellowship positions are available.

- One paid fellowship is available in the Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI) training track focusing primarily on competency evaluations and other forensic-related evaluations.
- Two paid fellowships are available in the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC) and MMHI training track focused on forensic psychology.

The fellowships are designed to satisfy the postdoctoral licensure hours in Wisconsin and most other states. 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 at MMHI and SRSTC/MMHI are 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 16 forensic units encompassing all security levels (maximum, medium, and minimum). 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:** 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 MMHI 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. 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. 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.

The MMHI fellow is expected to participate in a one-hour mock trial during the fellowship year.

## **Program 2: 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. The individuals are committed for treatment under Wis. Stat. ch. 980 and reside at SRSTC, which is in Mauston, Wisconsin. 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, Wisconsin. During this three-month rotation, 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 one shadow evaluation during this training rotation. At the end of the three-month rotation, the fellow will provide expert testimony during an intensive, one-day mock trial.

Throughout the course of training with SRSTC, the fellows assigned to this track will participate in a biweekly book discussion regarding sexual development, sexual offending, and stigma. Additionally, the fellows will receive biweekly training on the topic of bias in forensic evaluation.

The remaining six months of training in Program 2 will occur at MMHI. 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:** 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 MMHI 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. 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. 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.

## Seminar/didactic experiences

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 2 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 1 to 2 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. These sessions are open to the professional community at large for a fee, but all staff and affiliates can attend for free. 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 the American Psychological Association. The fellow will also co-facilitate group supervision for the psychology interns with a licensed psychologist.

## Supervision

The fellowship program at SRSTC/MMHI 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 quarterly with the director of the fellowship program and/or their current supervisor(s) and receive both oral and written feedback regarding their performance during that quarter. Fellows will also receive an evaluation at the end of the training year summarizing their experiences.

## 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, 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 and healthy/normal sexuality.

### **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](mailto: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, 2025.**

- Full curriculum vitae
- A statement of purpose (1–2 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. (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