

UMASS CHAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
FORENSIC
PSYCHOLOGY
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM
BROCHURE



2027-2028 Training Year

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UMass Chan Medical School

Post-Doctoral Forensic Fellowship

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Overview

The Post-doctoral Fellowship Program in Forensic Psychology offers fellows a year of seminars and supervised clinical and research experiences that are intended to prepare scientist-practitioners for a career as Forensic Psychologists in addition to covering the content areas assessed for in the ABPP certification in Forensic Psychology. To this end, the fellowship is structured to mirror the Postdoctoral Training in Forensic Psychology Guidelines provided by the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) and is approved for the ABFP Experience Waiver. We anticipate that we will have three positions for the 2027-2028 Academic year, September - August.

Our program, which was developed and initiated by Dr. Thomas Grisso, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic), has a lengthy history of providing advanced and comprehensive training in forensic psychology. The program continued to thrive for many years under the direction of Ira Packer, PhD, ABPP (Forensic). While Drs. Packer and Grisso remain involved in our program, the fellowship is now being directed by Ashley Murray, Ph.D.

The Fellowship Program is administered by the Law-Psychiatry Program within the UMass Chan Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. The program is funded by a contract from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Forensic Services. Upon completion of their training, many of our fellows have taken early-career positions with the Commonwealth's forensic mental health services, while others have taken both applied and academic positions in other jurisdictions.

The program will offer three full-time funded post-doctoral fellowship positions in 2027-2028 that will each carry a stipend of \$61,000 and an allotted \$2,500 to cover professional conference expenses, travel expenses to off-campus practicum sites, and professional expenses such as books, licensure fees, and work-related supplies.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Requirements to Apply:

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in clinical or counseling psychology, or a Psy.D. in clinical psychology, from an APA or CPA accredited graduate program. Applicants must have completed, or be

currently completing, an APA or CPA accredited doctoral internship. Persons applying prior to completion of their graduate degree must provide firm evidence that all requirements for the doctoral degree will be completed prior to the start of the post-doctoral year (September 1), including a letter to that effect from their Director of Clinical Training or Dissertation Chair.

Application Materials Needed:

Complete Applications include the following:

- Completed Application Form (linked on our website)
- Letter of interest
 - Applications should include a letter of interest, addressed to Dr. Murray, describing what drew you to the field of Forensic Psychology, a brief synopsis of your relevant preparation, particularly your assessment-focused preparation, and your career objectives, including a projection of what you would like to be doing professionally during the years following the fellowship. We are looking for articulated, genuine answers to these questions. Please do not simply reiterate your specific practica and internship experiences (which are included on the Application Form and on your CV).
- A copy of your professional CV
- 3 Letters of Recommendation by professionals in the field
- A Letter of Verification of your degree status from your Director of Clinical Training or Dissertation Chair
 - A letter that verifies your doctoral degree requirements will be met by the start of the Fellowship year (by the last Monday of August) to be sent directly by your graduate program's Director of Clinical Training or Dissertation Chair
- Official copies of your academic transcripts

Requests for information and applications should be sent to:

Ashley Murray, Ph.D.
C/O: Christine Rainville
UMass Chan Forensic Mobile Service
361 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01604
christine.rainville@umassmed.edu

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than: 5pm EST Thursday, January 7th, 2027

Licensure Requirements:

This Fellowship Program prepares fellows to meet licensure requirements for the state of Massachusetts and most other states/jurisdictions as well. Massachusetts does not require completion of a formal postdoctoral fellowship prior to licensure application, though other states do. This fellowship program consists of 40-hour (full time) work weeks for the duration of a calendar year (12 months), and will provide 2,000 supervised training hours by the completion of the year, in a qualified health service setting. At least four hours of supervision by a licensed clinical psychologist will be provided each week. Licensed clinical supervisors will be available on-site 40 hours per week.

The Fellowship Year

Please note: Training Opportunities are Subject to Change

Orientation Period

The training year typically begins on the last Monday of August with an orientation period lasting approximately three weeks. During this period, the fellow becomes acquainted with the daily routines of UMass Chan Medical School and the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH); the fellow is given a formal introduction to the staff and programs of various departments within these facilities and is systematically introduced to the principal emphases and lines of work within the two psychology departments. The fellows will also undergo a comprehensive orientation to our forensic evaluation service and the structure and process of our evaluation work for the Massachusetts Trial Court System. As part of their orientation to this fellowship, they may be asked to participate in staff conferences, review department assessment procedures, observe admission procedures, and attend lectures on administrative and legal aspects of hospital procedures. By the end of the orientation period, fellows will have also met with their core supervisor, research supervisor, and the Program Director to develop goals and a schedule for the year.

Benefits

Fellows in Psychology are employees of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. Fellows receive a stipend of \$61,000 a choice of employee health insurance plans (cost varies), and paid vacation and holidays. All fellows are provided 15 days of vacation time, 2 personal days, as well as 15 days of sick time. Additionally, all fellows are provided a professional stipend of \$2500 to use toward books, EPPP/licensure costs, educational materials, conference travel, or other approved professional needs.

Structure of Training

Training Activities

The Program provides specialized forensic training through the following types of weekly activities:

- Applied Forensic Clinical Experience (about 32 hrs./week)
- Seminars:
 - 9:00am-10:30am Tuesdays (1.5 hours) weekly didactic seminar (from September – August)
 - 3:00pm – 4:30pm Tuesdays (1.5 hours) weekly landmark case law seminar (from September – July)
 - 9:00am – 10:30am Mondays (1.5 hours) Law and Psychiatry Program seminar presentations (monthly, from September – June)
 - 12:00pm-1:00pm Thursdays (1 hour) UMass Chan Psychiatry Department Grand Rounds (from September – August)
 - 1:30pm – 2:30pm every other Tuesday (1 hour) Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital Grand Rounds (September – August)
 - 9:00am – 10:00am every Thursday (1 hour) UMass Chan Forensic Service Evaluator Case Consult Group (September – August)
 - 12:00 – 1:00pm Mondays (1 hour) UMass Chan Brown Bag REC Discussion Group (Quarterly, September – August)
- Research Experience (about 4 hrs./week), including 1 hour/week of research supervision
- Supervision by a licensed clinical psychologist (at least 4 hours per week)
- Mentorship on career objectives (1-3 hours per quarter)

Applied Forensic Clinical Experience

This fellowship provides forensic training across inpatient and court/outpatient settings. We believe that it is consistent with good preparation for a forensic psychology career for fellows to obtain experience in multiple settings.

Inpatient Sites: Fellows will complete the first 6 months of the fellowship year at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH), a state hospital, where they will conduct inpatient evaluations. The second half of the year, two of the three fellows (based on level of interest) will complete a rotation at Bridgewater State Hospital, a maximum-security forensic hospital for males, run by the Department of Corrections in conjunction with Wellpath. The third fellow will continue at WRCH for the second half of the year.

Court Clinics: Each fellow will also complete a six-month, one-day-per-week, rotation at an adult or juvenile court clinic (based on interest). Court clinics consist of forensic psychologists and social workers who provide on-site rapid forensic evaluations, expert testimony, and consultation to the courts.

In addition to court-ordered evaluations, there are opportunities to provide violence risk assessment consultations to hospitals and community providers. Additional minor rotations, dependent on the interest of fellows, may also be available (e.g., neuropsychology).

Forensic Experience Training Sites

We collaborate with several public sector forensic evaluation services and teams throughout Massachusetts to provide the above training experiences. The following are brief descriptions of those sites.

Inpatient:

Worcester Recovery Center Hospital (WRCH)

Adjacent to the UMass Chan Medical School campus, is a Department of Mental Health facility that provides both treatment and evaluation services to both men and women. Forensic evaluation services are provided by a team of Forensic Psychologists through a contract with the UMass Chan Law and Psychiatry Program. This team provides the courts with pre- and post-trial evaluations (e.g. competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, as well as need for commitment) of defendants, as well as prisoners in need of treatment. Violence risk assessments are also provided to the treatment teams regarding patients with violence histories who are being considered for increased privileges or discharge. Consultations may also be provided to outpatient providers regarding clients with significant histories of violence. In addition, similar services may be provided at other Department of Mental Health facilities.

Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH)

Individuals housed at BSH undergo pre- and post-trial evaluations for the courts, including those for competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, and need for civil commitment. Given its designation as a strict-security facility, BSH is often selected by the courts to manage the risk and treatment needs of individuals with extensive psychiatric and violent histories. The Massachusetts Department of Correction contracts with Recovery Solutions to provide operations for the hospital.

Outpatient:

Adult Court Clinic Services (District and Superior Courts): are provided by specially designated forensic psychologists and psychiatrists. Professionals in these settings provide forensic mental health screening evaluations (e.g., competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, civil commitment, commitment of individuals with substance use disorders), consultation and liaison to judges, court personnel, and community mental health agencies. Supervision of fellows in the court clinics will be provided by highly experienced forensic psychologists. We have arrangements with several court clinics in different parts of the Commonwealth to provide placements for our fellows. The decision about court clinic placements is a flexible one, taking into account the needs of the courts as well as the geographic preferences of the fellows.

Supervision

Supervision of all forensic evaluations is provided by licensed clinical forensic psychologists who have been certified by the Department of Mental Health as Designated Forensic Psychologists (DFPs). Primary supervisors at all sites prepare written evaluations of Fellows each quarter. These evaluations are then reviewed with the fellow by the primary supervisor, and are signed by both parties. Both parties receive a copy. In the event of an issue or problem, the program's Due Process and Grievance Policies are utilized. The signed evaluation forms are sent to Dr. Murray, the Program Director. The Director reviews these evaluations with the Fellows and sets goals and expectations for satisfactory completion of the rotations and program. At the end of the fellowship year, the Training Director also completes and reviews the Core Competencies Evaluation Form with each fellow and the two discuss the fellow's overall performance over the training year; both parties sign this form and receive a copy. In addition, fellows will have weekly individual supervision sessions with Dr. Murray to integrate their clinical and didactic experiences as well as regular weekly supervision sessions with their research supervisor focusing on research topics.

Fellows are asked to provide evaluations of their supervision (and all other aspects of the training program), each quarter as well.

SUPERVISION, DIDACTICS, & RESEARCH

Supervision and Teaching Opportunities

1. Teaching

The fellow will obtain experience in teaching other professionals by providing occasional presentations to: doctoral psychology interns, psychiatry fellows, conferences and workshops offered by the Law-Psychiatry Program, and other teaching forums as opportunities arise. Fellows will present a case conference, as well as a presentation on their research project to the UMass Chan Law and Psychiatry Program Seminar Series during the second half of their training year. They will also each present a topic (CST, CR, or Malingering) to the UMass Chan Psychology Comprehensive Training Program, which consists of psychology trainees at the level of advanced graduate students, doctoral interns and postdoctoral fellows in the serious mental illness fellowship program. Two of the fellows (based on interest) will also present a professional talk at the UMass Chan Law and Psychiatry Grand Rounds during the second half of the training year.

2. Supervision

Fellows will have the opportunity to supervise a doctoral intern on their rotation with our forensic service, on elements of their practice, including: conducting and writing results of psychological testing, forensic report writing, clinical interviewing, developing psycho-legal opinions, and will provide mentorship to the intern. The fellow will be supervised by a licensed psychologist in our service on their duties supervising the doctoral intern. They will each supervise an intern for 1/3 of the training year (4 months).

Didactics & Seminars

1. Forensic Psychology/Psychiatry Seminar

The Program's main seminar is provided weekly, on Tuesday mornings (9:00am – 10:30am; 1.5 hours in length) by UMass Chan faculty and supplemented by outside presenters. The purpose of the seminar is to provide the critical empirical and theoretical foundations for specialization in forensic psychology/psychiatry. The seminar focuses on reading and discussion of relevant mental health law concepts, forensic assessment methods, research and practice related to psycho-legal issues, and ethical and cultural issues relevant to forensic practice. The seminar covers a wide range of forensic content, including topics in criminal and civil forensic evaluations, juvenile evaluations, professional ethics, and psychological evidence and testimony. The seminar, in conjunction with the Landmark Cases seminar described below, provides a good foundation for preparing for ABPP credentialing.

2. Landmark Mental Health Law Case Seminar

This seminar is taught weekly, on Tuesday afternoons (3:00pm – 4:30pm; 1.5 hours), by Ashley Murray, Ph.D. and Darina Griffin, Esq. The seminar involves fellows in the discussion of over 100 of the most important appellate cases in mental health law. The cases cover the recommended list provided by ABPP for those seeking Board Certification in Forensic Psychology. Through this seminar, fellows learn how to read and analyze law, and how to think about mental health law and policy. The seminar also includes cases specific to practice in Massachusetts which are part of the written DFP examination the fellow is expected to take, and pass, as part of the fellowship training year.

3. Law Psychiatry Case Conference

Monthly, on the first Monday of the month (9:00am – 10:30am; 1.5 hours), the faculty and trainees of the Law-Psychiatry Program meet to hear and discuss a presentation by a Program member or an outside speaker. Presentations may involve forensic cases, descriptions of ongoing or completed research projects, or descriptions of special forensic issues and programs. Fellows are expected to present both a research seminar as well as a clinical case conference during the second half of the fellowship year at this seminar series.

4. Mock Trial Exercises

Fellows participate at an annual Mock Trial exercise with law students at Harvard Law School in which they travel to Harvard University and receive the opportunity to mock-testify as an expert witness for current Harvard Law students over the course of a full day in January. Harvard alumni, including seasoned attorneys and judges from around the country participate in the exercise and provide feedback to trainees about their performance. In addition, UMass Chan provides a mock trial exercise with experienced trial lawyers (in the Spring of the Training Year), which includes a videotape of the fellows' testimony, as well as feedback from both mental health and legal professionals. Fellows are cross-examined on an actual report they authored for court and/or the hospital.

5. Other Seminars

Other didactic experiences are available throughout the year. Fellows are encouraged to attend weekly hour-long (12:00pm – 1:00pm on Thursdays) Psychiatry Grand Rounds at UMass Chan Medical School, which often include clinical topics that are relevant for forensic work. The Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital also runs bi-weekly (every other Tuesday) Grand Rounds presentations involving clinical

topics relevant to working with a forensic and serious mental illness (SMI) population for the duration of the training year. In-service training opportunities are also available at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital and at other sites. The Law and Psychiatry Program also produces several day-long workshops for forensic mental health professionals throughout Massachusetts, which fellows attend. Fellows are expected to attend the annual conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41 of American Psychological Association) which occurs across two to three days in March. An educational stipend is provided that covers expenses of this conference.

6. Research

Fellows devote approximately 10% of their time to research on a topic or problem in mental health law or forensic clinical psychology. Typically, this will be a project developed at the fellows' own initiative and supervised by Dr. Gina Vincent. Alternatively, it may develop as a derivative of on-going research projects by Program faculty. The Commonwealth's forensic mental health system provides a wide variety of opportunities for data collection, although the time commitments of fellows to service and didactic training typically encourage fellows to work on conceptual papers, research reviews, or analyses of existing databases, rather than the collection of new data.

Current research activities and interests of the UMass Chan Law-Psychiatry faculty include:

- evaluating competence to consent to or refuse treatment.
- violence risk assessment.
- prevalence of mentally ill individuals in the correctional system.
- drug and mental health courts.
- developing quality assurance measures for forensic reports.
- identification of mental health needs of youths in juvenile justice settings.
- and juveniles' competence to stand trial.
- assessment/inclusion of race, ethnicity and culture considerations in forensic evaluation.

CORE COMPETENCIES TO ACHIEVE

The following are the core competencies fellows are expected to achieve by the conclusion of the fellowship year. An evaluation form listing these competencies will be completed by the Training Director and rated on a Likert Scale to determine if the fellow successfully completes the program. The Likert Scale is:

- **Novice (1): Possesses entry-level skills; needs intensive supervision.** Novices have limited knowledge and understanding of case conceptualization, intervention skills, and the processes and techniques of implementing them. Novices do not yet recognize consistent patterns of

behavior relevant for diagnosis or care planning, and do not differentiate well between important and unimportant details.

- **Intermediate (2): Has a background of some exposure and experience; ongoing supervision is needed.** Experience has been gained through practice, supervision, and instruction. The learner is able to recognize important recurring issues and to select appropriate strategies for assessment or intervention. Generalization of skills is limited, and support is needed to guide performance.
- **Advanced (3): Has solid experience; handles typical situations well; requires supervision for unusual or complex situations.** Knowledge of the competency domain is more integrated, including application of appropriate research literature. The learner is more fluent in their ability to recognize patterns of behavior and to select appropriate strategies to guide diagnosis and treatment.
- **Proficient (4): Functions autonomously; knows limits of ability; seeks supervision or consultation as needed.** Proficiency is demonstrated in perceiving situations as integrated wholes and not only a summation of parts, including an appreciation of the long-term implications of the current situation. The learner demonstrates an understanding of the graduated importance of details from the present situation and has developed a nuanced understanding of the clinical situation.
- **Expert (5): Serves as resource or consultant to others; is recognized as having expertise.** With significant background of experience, the psychologist is able to focus on the essentials of the problem quickly and efficiently. Analytical problem-solving is used to consider unfamiliar situations or when initial impressions are rejected.

The fellow must obtain a score greater than 2 to pass each competency, and the fellowship program. In addition, they must take and pass (e.g., a score of 70% or higher) the DMH DFP written examination in the Summer of the training year as well, to successfully complete the fellowship program. The program competencies to obtain are:

- A. Knowledge of the basic principles of the legal system, including how the legal system works, legal doctrines that are relevant for mental health evaluations, as well as core legal cases relevant to Forensic Psychology and their implications for practice, covering the breadth of forensic psychology.
- B. Knowledge of forensic psychological evaluation methods, including specialized assessment instruments used in forensic psychological practice.
- C. Knowledge of, and practice consistent with, the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists and the Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct for Psychologists.

- D. Knowledge of rules, procedures, and techniques related to expert witness testimony.
- E. Attainment of advanced skill in providing forensic psychological services in at least two of the following areas: a) Competency to Stand Trial, b) Criminal Responsibility, c) Civil Commitment, d) Violence Risk Assessments
 - 1. Ability to conduct a forensic interview.
 - 2. Ability to use and interpret structured assessment instruments.
 - 3. Ability to obtain the relevant data, including collateral sources of information.
 - 4. Ability to integrate results and formulate interpretations consistent with data, relevant for the conclusions related to the legal question, and consistent with ethical and practice guidelines.
 - 5. Ability to write reports that are clear, comprehensive, articulate and appropriately focused on the referral issue.
 - 6. Ability to provide expert testimony in a clear, articulate manner, consistent with ethical and practice guidelines.
- F. Demonstration of ability to critically evaluate research and how it applies to forensic practice.

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP FACULTY AND SUPERVISORS

FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP

Ashley Murray, Ph.D.

Director, Forensic Psychology Fellowship Program
Forensic Mental Health Supervisor
Assistant Director, UMass Chan Mobile Forensic Service
Landmark Case Law Seminar Co-Facilitator

Gina Vincent, Ph.D.

Co-Director, Law and Psychiatry Program
Fellowship Research Supervisor

Natalie Anumba, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Co-Director, Law and Psychiatry Program
Forensic Mental Health Supervisor

Andrea Dinsmore, Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Director, UMass Chan Mobile Forensic Services
Forensic Mental Health Supervisor

Danielle Rynczak, J.D., Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Director of Legal Training and Education
Forensic Mental Health Supervisor

Darina Griffin, Esq.

Landmark Case Law Seminar Co-Facilitator

Ira Packer, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Professor Emeritus / Mentor

Thomas Grisso, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Professor Emeritus

Christine Rainville

Program Administrative Assistant

CLINICAL SUPERVISORY STAFF

Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital Inpatient Rotation:

Natalie Anumba, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan

Andrea Dinsmore, Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan

Ashley Murray, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan

Danielle Rynczak, J.D., Psy.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Shannon Brown, Psy.D.

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Maxwell Christensen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan

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Heidi Putney, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UMass Chan