

Central Regional Hospital Postdoctoral Fellowship



2026-2027



NC DEPARTMENT OF
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Division of State Operated
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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 4 |
| The Hospital and Location | 5 |
| Fellow Selection Requirements..... | 6 |
| Application Procedures | 8 |
| Stipend | 9 |
| Training Goals and Objectives..... | 9 |
| Core Experiences of the Forensic Fellowship | 12 |
| Supervision | 14 |
| Licensure..... | 15 |
| Preparation for Board Certification in Forensic Psychology | 16 |
| Fellowship Director and Forensic Evaluation Service Psychologists | 17 |

Introduction

The Forensic Evaluation Service at Central Regional Hospital (CRH) offers a Postdoctoral Fellowship program in Forensic Psychology that provides extensive forensic assessment training to qualified doctoral graduates. This is an opportunity for training in all aspects of criminal forensic evaluation. The majority of the evaluations focus is on capacity to proceed and mental state at the time of the offense. Other evaluation issues are sometimes involved, such as diminished capacity, capacity to waive Miranda rights, and risk assessments. We evaluate individuals from all 100 counties of North Carolina, including rural, urban, and suburban areas from the Appalachian Mountains in the west to the coasts of the Outer Banks in the east. The individuals we evaluate reflect the diversity of the state of North Carolina. The Fellowship is administered by the doctoral level psychologists within the Forensic Evaluation Service. The majority of evaluations are conducted via videoconference, but in-person and inpatient interviews are both possible.

To learn more about the forensic system in North Carolina, please visit the [forensic services website](#).

The Hospital and Location

Central Regional Hospital is a state psychiatric hospital setting, offering a comprehensive range of services with inpatient treatment units for children, adolescents, adults, geriatric, and forensic populations, as well as outpatient services for children and families, and pretrial forensic evaluations. The 432-private room hospital serves the acute and rehabilitative mental health treatment needs of adults and adolescents from 26 counties in central North Carolina. From 2007 to 2010 the state closed Dorothea Dix Hospital (Raleigh, NC) and John Umstead Hospital (Butner, NC) and merged them into CRH. The new hospital was designed with large open areas, large windows, and other elements intended to maximize the positive outlook and potential of patients and staff. For more information, visit the [hospital's website](#).

Central Regional Hospital is located in Butner, about 10 miles from Durham, 15 miles from Chapel Hill, and 20 miles from Raleigh. The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area, which surrounds the Research Triangle Park and Raleigh-Durham airport, is known locally as "The Triangle." The Triangle area contains three major universities, other colleges, numerous technology and medical science businesses, a wide range of restaurants and entertainment options, and has become a hub for young professionals. For more information visit the Chamber of Commerce websites for [Raleigh](#), [Durham](#), and [Chapel Hill](#).

The forensic evaluations conducted during the Fellowship are through the Forensic Evaluation Service. Nearly all evaluations are done related to felony level charges, up to and including capital murder. Many evaluations are performed remotely by videoconference, though outpatient and inpatient evaluations still occur. Defendants who are evaluated in person arrive out of custody or are transported by law enforcement and evaluated as outpatients. There is also an eight-bed, co-ed inpatient unit for admitting patients for evaluation when indicated.

If adjudicated incapable, defendants may be committed to one of the three state-operated hospitals for treatment. There are also ongoing pilot programs for jail and community-based capacity restoration available in some counties. Following restoration services, defendants receive an updated forensic evaluation, which may be conducted by the Forensic Evaluation Service. At CRH, Fellows work with a highly diverse patient population varying in SES, ethnicity, and culture. Regarding ethnicity, defendants include people of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Anglo American descent, as well as a small number of individuals of Native American, and Asian descent.

Fellow Selection Requirements

Education and Experience: Prospective Fellows are required to have a Ph.D./Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology, with an APA approved internship (all degree requirements to be completed by the start of the training year the incoming year). Fellows should ensure their educational training meets the standards to apply for licensure in North Carolina.

Previous forensic experience is strongly preferred. We are looking for incoming Fellows who have the following:

- The ability to conduct productive interviews and mental status examinations;
- The ability to administer, interpret, and score commonly used psychometric measures;
- The ability to write succinct and relevant reports that effectively incorporate extensive data sets; and
- The ability to communicate findings to audiences with varying familiarity with psychological knowledge.

Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace: Central Regional Hospital (CRH) follows the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) policy on Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace. The Hospital is committed to providing an alcohol and drug free workplace for all employees. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, sale, possession, or use of controlled substances; the possession or use of alcoholic beverages; and the possession of and manufacture or delivery of drug paraphernalia is prohibited on CRH premises.

Drug Screening: Postdoctoral Fellows are considered hospital employees and are required to submit a pre-employment drug screening. All offers for positions requiring pre-employment drug testing shall be conditional offers upon satisfactory test results. A refusal to submit, fail to show, or tampering with a sample or a positive test result that cannot be explained to the satisfaction of the Medical Review Officer and the employing agency shall result in the offer of employment or continued employment service being withdrawn. North Carolina laws do not currently reciprocate or recognize medically prescribed cannabis prescriptions from out of state. Recreational marijuana use is illegal in North Carolina. Although North Carolina laws do permit the use of hemp-based THC products, CRH maintains a strict drug-free policy.

Vaccination: Central Regional Hospital requires proof of vaccination for measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough), varicella (chicken pox), and influenza unless there is a medical contraindication with approved medical exemption or approved religious exemption. COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended but not required at this time; however, that policy is subject to change. Medical and religious vaccination exemptions are approved on an individual basis and are not guaranteed.

Background Check: Postdoctoral Fellows must undergo a background check as part of their offer of employment. If a fellow has not lived in North Carolina for 5 years they will be fingerprinted as well. Background check results will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Application Procedures

We are targeting a start date of August 1, 2026 (pending institutional approval), otherwise the start date will be September 1, 2026 .

Completed applications should be submitted by December 31, 2025. Interviews are conducted via videoconference in late January and into February. We will observe the Uniform Acceptance Date of 02/23/26.

Those interested in applying should email the following:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
- **Letter of interest**
 - Describe your interest in our fellowship program and your career aspirations
- **Three letters of recommendation**
 - At least one from a supervisor who is familiar with your recent work.
 - Applicants who have not yet received their degrees should also submit a letter from your graduate school's Director of Clinical Training or dissertation chair discussing the progress on your dissertation and progress towards completion of your degree requirements. If this individual is one of your recommendation writers, they can include such information in their recommendation letter.
- **Two deidentified reports.**
 - Please include a brief statement detailing why you chose to submit these particular reports.
 - These sample reports should be related to forensic evaluation if possible, and should reflect your report writing, rather than a report heavily edited by a supervisor.

Email applications to Matthew R. McNally, Ph.D., ABPP
matthew.mcnelly@dhhs.nc.gov

The CRH program is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships. The UAD is February 23, 2026. Although our fellowship may make an offer prior to the UAD, we will not require applicants to accept an offer prior to the UAD. *"Applicants are nonetheless encouraged to notify a fellowship of their decision as soon as possible, to allow for more efficient management of opportunities."* (The Uniform Acceptance Date is essentially the same as APPIC's Common Hold Date; i.e., the same date is used, with similar provisions).

Stipend

The Fellowship has one Forensic Psychology Fellowship position. Compensation is provided through a contract agency with an hourly rate of \$35.00 per hour (\$70,000 per 2000 hours) for the twelve-month position. Unfortunately, with a contract position there are no benefits, paid vacation time, paid sick leave, or paid holidays.



CRH Annex—Postdoctoral Fellow Office Location

Training Goals and Objectives

The goals of fellowship program are that by the end of the Fellowship year all Fellows will have attained competency in the core areas identified below. Training in the core competencies involves gradual acquisition of skills through direct service under experiential learning, supervision, and didactics.

Core Competencies

General Clinical Skills: To be a competent forensic evaluator, one must first possess strong general clinical skills. Fellows will continue to improve the breadth and depth of their general clinical psychology skills. Principal among these skills are rapport building; interviewing; selecting, administering, and interpreting psychological tests; case conceptualization; diagnostic formulation; and writing concise and relevant reports.

Legal Knowledge and Case Law: Fellows will gain a fundamental understanding of the legal system (e.g., North Carolina and federal) and relevant case law. They will become familiar with relevant landmark cases in mental health law. Fellows will learn the fundamentals of conducting legal research pertaining to psychological practice. They will also be familiar with laws pertaining to expert testimony and admissibility of their opinions in court.

Criminal Forensic Evaluation: Fellows will conduct evaluations to answer psycho-legal questions based on relevant statutes and law, with particular focus on capacity to proceed and mental status at the time of the offense. They will be skilled with using forensic instruments commonly used in forensic practice and use them when appropriate. Fellows will also assess for malingering using appropriate methodology.

Communication and Consultation: Fellows will write clear, comprehensive, and relevant forensic reports. Fellows will clearly communicate their findings to a varied audience, which includes fact finders, lawyers, psychologists, and/or treatment team members. If the opportunity arises, Fellows will testify as an expert in the North Carolina court system.

Autonomy: It is expected as the year progresses that Fellows will become increasingly autonomous in their practice, with the goal of the Fellow being able to independently practice in the arena of forensic evaluation upon completion of the postdoctoral training and psychology licensure.

Cultural Competency: Cultural background and context are important in understanding an individual. Fellows will recognize cultural and contextual factors and take appropriate steps in addressing and integrating them in their case formulations. They will choose tests, and interpret clinical data and test results, in relation to the individual characteristics of the person being evaluated. The relevance of this information will be reflected in their reports.

Ethical Principles: The Fellow will know and apply the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, and the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists. They will strive to recognize and appropriately address ethical issues.

To achieve the core competencies listed above, the Fellowship program offers series of core experiences found in the next section.

Core Experiences of the Forensic Fellowship

Practical Experience

The Forensic Fellow spends the year doing assessments with pre-trial defendants who are court ordered for evaluation via the Forensic Evaluation Service at Central Regional Hospital. Most are evaluations of capacity to proceed (i.e., competency to stand trial) and some are for mental state at the time of the offense. Defendants span the age range of 8 to 90+, including males and females, and reflect the diverse population of the entire state. The underlying alleged offenses are almost always felony level, up to and including capital murder. This provides ample opportunity for Fellows to engage in interesting and complex forensic evaluations. Fellows may have the opportunity to evaluate issues such as diminished capacity, capacity to waive Miranda rights, and risk assessments. The training director and supervisors attempt to be flexible in meeting the needs and interests of the Fellow based on the referrals received throughout the year.

Although most evaluations are completed as an outpatient, the Fellow may also conduct psychological evaluations on the inpatient Forensic Pretrial unit in response to specific referral questions from forensic psychiatrists.

Forensic Outpatient Evaluations

Most of the evaluations on the Forensic Evaluation Service are completed as outpatients, meaning defendants are evaluated via videoconference or brought from jail to CRH by law enforcement for evaluation, and then returned to jail via law enforcement the same day. Fellows evaluate the forensic question, as well as diagnostic impressions, review collateral information, administer/interpret psychological testing (if indicated), prepare written reports of findings for the court, and testify when subpoenaed. Follow-up appointments for continued evaluation and inpatient admission for behavioral observations are also available to assist the Fellow in answering the court's question.

Forensic Inpatient Testing

Some defendants are admitted to CRH for inpatient evaluation. Although a less common source of evaluations for the Fellow, when the primary forensic evaluator is a psychiatrist, he or she may refer the defendant for psychological testing. These psychological assessments are conducted in response to specific referral questions from the primary forensic evaluator, including assessing for malingering; assessing for psychosis; assessing neuropsychological, cognitive, or intellectual functioning; and/or providing diagnostic clarification. A combination of methods may be utilized, including clinical interviews, psychological testing, consultations with staff, and/or a review of collateral information. Tests may include measures of effort, malingering,

neuropsychological screening instruments, intellectual and achievement tests, and/or personality measures.

Observation

We believe that it is important for Fellows to develop their own style of interviewing and report writing. Therefore, ample opportunity is provided to observe supervisors and other Forensic Evaluation Service evaluators conduct evaluations, allowing the Fellow to see varying styles and approaches.

Seminars and Didactics

Landmark Cases/Forensic Seminar

The Landmark Case/Forensic Seminar series participation is provided for the Fellow. This seminar is taught by staff from both CRH and FCC Butner, as well as other expert professionals from the community. Topics include competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, risk assessment, sex offender assessment and treatment, forensic report writing, professional ethics, death penalty issues, malingering, neuropsychological assessment, evaluating juveniles, disability determinations, forensic implications of antisocial personality disorder, personal injury and tort litigation, competency to waive Miranda rights, child custody, fitness for duty, forensic evaluations with those with Intellectual Disabilities, guardianship and testamentary capacity, civil commitment, practicing as an expert witness, PCL-R, the North Carolina legal system, rights to receive and refuse treatment, confidentiality/privilege/privacy, informed consent, protection of third parties, professional ethics, malpractice and liability, and gender and cultural issues.

Forensic Difficult Case Conference

Pre-trial defendants are interviewed in front of a multidisciplinary group of forensic staff and/or extensive background information is presented. Group discussion centers on the forensic question. These cases are typically complex, and Fellows can observe how experienced evaluators may view cases differently, while also participating in the process.

Testimony

Mock Testimony is required for the Fellow. The Fellow will be expected to prepare one case for a mock trial with the forensic evaluation staff. The supervisor will assist with the preparation for this didactic experience. The Fellow is also encouraged to observe testimony of their supervisor as well as any CRH evaluator during their Fellowship training. Moreover, when the opportunity arises, the Fellow will provide direct testimony on evaluations they have conducted when subpoenaed. Taking advantage of these opportunities is encouraged, as testifying is an integral part of being a forensic psychologist.

Supervision

We take pride in our supervision here at CRH and all the staff are highly invested in the training of our Postdoctoral Fellow and interns. We believe in a developmental model of supervision, providing the support and mentoring needed as appropriate to the trainee's level of skill and ability. Our goal is for the Fellow to be able to work independently by the end of the training year. Therefore, the Fellow's skills will be continually assessed throughout the year and supervision will be modified accordingly.

The Fellowship provides the trainee with the supervision hours required to be licensed in most states. During the year you will have either one main supervisor for the year or two main supervisors, each for six months. All supervisors are licensed by the state of North Carolina. At least two hours of face-to-face supervision will be provided each week, with at least one hour a week with your direct supervisor; however more supervision is typically provided. Furthermore, Forensic Evaluation Service evaluators are eager to discuss their cases and allow you to observe and/or participate in their evaluations. Therefore, although you will have a main supervisor with whom you will spend the majority of your training, most of the Forensic Evaluation Service will be involved in your development and training.

Formal evaluations of the Fellow occur mid-way through and at the end of the year. We believe evaluation of supervisees is an ongoing process, thus when receiving your mid-way and end of year evaluation, you should not be surprised with its contents, as feedback will be given regularly throughout the year.

The fellowship has established procedures for grievances and identifying remediating performance concerns.

Licensure

Fellows will need to initiate their application for provisional licensure within 30 days of beginning the fellowship. Applicants should be sure they will meet all NC licensing board requirements by the beginning of fellowship
<http://www.ncpsychologyboard.org/>

Preparation for Board Certification in Forensic Psychology

Although we do not expect all our Fellows to seek Board Certification in Forensic Psychology, through our Fellowship we provide training to aid those interested in doing so. You will receive an in-depth experience in conducting forensic assessments, direct supervision of your forensic practice, and formal education through didactics and other trainings. You will also learn many of the landmark cases that are recommended reading by the board to better prepare you for the Forensic American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) examination. The program has been granted the [experience waiver for application for board certification through 2031](#).

Fellowship Director and Forensic Evaluation Service Psychologists

Fellowship Director

Matthew McNally, Ph.D., ABPP

Dr. McNally received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University. He trained in state and federal prisons as well as state psychiatric hospitals. Dr. McNally completed his doctoral internship via the former University of North Carolina School of Medicine/Federal Correctional Complex – Butner internship program. He is a proud graduate of our postdoctoral fellowship (2016-2017). Dr. McNally worked for Durham County government (Criminal Justice Resource Center) evaluating adults and adolescents involved in civil and criminal proceedings as well as specialty mental health and drug treatment courts. He returned to CRH as a forensic evaluator in 2019 and has served as the Forensic Evaluation Service Supervisor since 2024. He earned his board certification in forensic psychology in 2025. He co-chairs the Law and Psychology committee of the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA). His special interests include forensic assessment, public policy, and supervision.

Forensic Evaluation Service Psychologists

Rebecca Aguiar, Ph.D.

Dr. Aguiar received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rhode Island. She completed her doctoral internship at Federal Correctional Complex – Butner. Dr. Aguiar completed the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Augusta University/East Central Regional Hospital. She then worked at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute, one of Virginia’s state mental health hospitals, as a treatment team psychologist and forensic evaluator completing forensic evaluations for the Virginia courts. Dr. Aguiar began working at CRH in February 2024 as Senior Psychologist in the Adult Acute Unit and started completing forensic evaluations full-time with the forensic evaluation service in September 2024. Her special interests include cultural considerations in forensic evaluations and psychology and the law, substance misuse, personality disorders, and supervision and training.

Madison Gallimore, Ph.D.

Dr. Gallimore received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in clinical child psychology from West Virginia University. She completed her doctoral internship at Mendota Mental Health Institute (Madison, WI; 2023-2024). Pre-adjudication training experiences included: competency to proceed evaluations and competency restoration services. Post-adjudication training experiences included: violence/sexual risk assessments, psychodiagnostic evaluations, individual/group therapy. She then completed her postdoctoral fellowship at East Central Regional Hospital through Augusta University (Augusta, GA; 2024-2025). Training experiences included the following pretrial evaluations: competency to proceed, risk of violence, psychodiagnostic, juvenile transfer to superior court, and criminal responsibility. Dr. Gallimore began working at CRH as a forensic evaluator in October 2025. Her special interests include juvenile justice, forensic assessment, and developmental psychology.

Benjamin Locklair, J.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Locklair completed his law degree and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a concentration in forensic psychology at Drexel University. He has worked in various capacities with local and state government on issues affecting people with behavioral health challenges at all stages of involvement in the criminal justice system, from pre-trial to post-conviction. A particular area of focus for Dr. Locklair has been legal and programmatic considerations related to the assessment and treatment of incapacity to proceed. He joined CRH as a forensic evaluator in May 2025.

Kymmalett Ross, Ph.D.

Dr. Ross received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University. She completed her doctoral internship at the Federal Correctional Complex – Butner (2022-2023). Dr. Ross completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Wynns Family Psychology, a private practice specializing in civil forensic psychology, in May 2025. Dr. Ross began working at CRH as a forensic evaluator in July 2025. Her special interests include forensic mental health assessment, sexual and violence risk assessments, sexual recidivism and treatment, and the treatment and assessment of justice-involved individuals with mental illness.

Teresa Wise, Ph.D.

Dr. Wise received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Central Florida where she completed a specialized neuropsychology practicum and taught Clinical Psychology and Advanced Research Methods and Statistics as a graduate instructor. She completed her doctoral internship and postdoctoral training at John Umstead Hospital (now part of CRH) specializing in neuropsychology, geropsychology, and severe and persistent mental illness. She formerly held an adjunct assistant professorship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Department of Psychology where she taught undergraduate neuropsychology; and she was an instructor in the Distance Education Program at SUNY - Empire State College for courses including Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Brain and Behavior, and Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Wise returned to work at CRH in 2012 specializing in geropsychology, neuropsychological assessment, and treatment of severe and persistent mental illness. She then respecialized in Forensic Psychology in 2014. Her special interests include forensic assessment, neuropsychology, geropsychology, and psychological assessment.

NOTE: The department is hiring and it is possible that other psychologists not listed here could be involved in the training of postdoctoral fellows in the future