2026-2027 DH Adult Inpatient Psychiatry Externship

Denver Health Medical Center, Adult Inpatient Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Services

Location: 777 Bannock Street, MC0490; Pavilion A, 4th and 5th floors, Denver, CO 80204

Contact: Haley Medlin, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist & Team Lead

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Agency Description and Services Provided

Acute inpatient psychiatry unit embedded in an urban safety-net hospital campus. The unit is comprised of two separate locked adult inpatient psychiatric units/wings (43 beds total), often referred to as one unit as they are served by the same staff. A third wing is expected to open in December 2025, as a medical psychiatric unit serving adults with significant medical needs in addition to acute psychiatric symptoms. On all units, many patients have complex presenting problems, with multiple psychiatric comorbidities as well as chemical dependency/substance use.

Our services include: short-term psychotherapeutic care, including individual therapy, group therapy, and milieu therapy, in consultation and collaboration with other members of the interdisciplinary team. Focus of treatment is on rapid stabilization of psychiatric illness and symptoms and appropriate referral to outpatient services. Occasional opportunities for psychological assessment may arise as well.

Positions: 2

Suitability: Advanced Students

Special Notes on Suitability

Due to the severity of symptoms and/or impairment of the patients served, externs starting in Fall 2026 should be entering their third or fourth year (or beyond) of graduate training. Applicants entering their second year with a previously earned Master's degree may be considered. We ask that students be willing to complete an approximately 11-month externship (late August to late July), with flexibility allowed for internship start dates. We also ask that one of the two practicum days be Tuesdays.

Application, Interview Requirements & On-boarding Requirements

Apply as early as possible in winter selection process in order to be considered. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so we recommend having applications in by mid-January in order to be considered.

Please submit CV, cover letter, and a list of 3 references familiar with your work (at least 2 of which are familiar with your clinical work) by email to haley.medlin@dhha.org

August start date. Criminal background checks required for all externs. Other onboarding requirements include TB test and Covid vaccine, and later, flu shot is required (and provided on site for free, although specific exemptions are allowed with documentation). Once an externship offer is made and accepted, onboarding will proceed through MyClinicalExchange, and it is essential that both extern and school training director are responsive/prompt with uploading materials to ensure there are no delays.

Type of Clients Served

Adults (over 18) with psychiatric and/or substance abuse problems requiring inpatient assessment and treatment. Common diagnoses include bipolar mood disorder, major depression, schizoaffective disorder, and schizophrenia. Many patients are involuntary (72-hour holds, short- or long-term certifications). Many patients with substance use disorders have significant medical problems that may complicate their withdrawal and thus require medical supervision.

Diverse Populations Served

15 % African American/Black

<1 % Asian American

40 % Latinx

15 % LGBTQ+

5 % Transgender

<1 % Native American

75 % Patients w/Disabilities

60 % Underserved/Health Equity Challenged

Duties of Psychology Trainee

The extern is able to observe and participate in provision of psychological services to an inpatient unit. Externs participate in interdisciplinary treatment planning and working with psychology residents and the staff psychologists to provide daily group psychotherapy. There are opportunities for brief individual psychotherapy and consultation. Psychological testing (personality testing, intellectual assessment, and neuropsychological screening) is used as an aid in differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and to establish strengths and deficits in individuals with possible neurocognitive impairments.

As the externship progresses, the extern will function as an essential member of the psychology staff on the unit (four psychologists, doctoral psychology interns/residents, and externs), with increasing levels of autonomy, including leading groups and providing therapy in an autonomous manner. In addition to extern's duties, the extern may have opportunities to participate in multidisciplinary training and continuing education opportunities (e.g., Journal Club, hosted by Psychiatry faculty). Denver Health also frequently hosts educational lecture series focusing on access and different populations (e.g., LGBTQ+ treatment experience/access, disability issues, Health Equity).

Supervised By: Psychology residents and psychology faculty members (Haley Medlin, PsyD, Nathanael Taylor, PhD, Rachel Kovensky, PhD; Arielle Kahana, PsyD). **Primary weekly individual supervision will occur with a licensed or license-eligible provider (e.g., postdoc, supervised by licensed psychologist);** supplemental (weekly) group supervision with all on-site licensed providers; supplemental individual supervision by Psychology Doctoral Interns/Residents will also be provided. Live supervision is readily available (via co-facilitation of groups weekly; live supervision of individual sessions occurs frequently over course of rotation)

Theoretical Orientation: Cognitive-behavioral (including ACT, DBT), behavioral, family systems are useful in this setting.

Supervision Format: Individual and Small Group

Number of Hours per Week Trainee Works: 16-18

Pay: None

Additional considerations: For parking, externs may choose to pay $1.75 daily to park in an employee garage (South Acoma Garage; 540 Acoma Street) or surface lot (Rita Bass Surface Lot; 190 W. 6th Avenue). Alternatively, some externs choose to utilize public transportation, bike to campus, or use free street parking in the surrounding neighborhoods (please adhere to signage).