Bridgewater State Hospital
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology

Program Handbook (2026-2027)

Contact Information for Fellowship Director:

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 2, 2026

MISSION AND VALUES

The Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH) postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology is designed to provide advanced training in the specialized area of forensic psychology, with an emphasis on forensic mental health assessment. The objective is to provide training in forensic psychology that is both empirically and practically relevant. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the forensic field, and its increasing expansion into other arenas of psychology, it is our philosophy that a proficient forensic psychologist not only exudes exceptional psycholegal competence but also embodies well-rounded abilities as a researcher and clinician. We believe these skills complement each other and achieve a holistic impact. With this in mind, our training model is designed to provide advanced educational, research, and practical training that will carry real-world professional benefits.

Upon completion of the program, fellows will have acquired the expertise to produce high caliber forensic reports and be prepared to pursue state licensure and board certification. Training satisfies the necessary postdoctoral supervision requirements for licensure in all states. Further, the program is designed to provide the necessary training and experience for certification as a Designated Forensic Professional (DFP), which is required by state regulations for the provision of public sector forensic mental health evaluations in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Lastly, it is our hope that trainees will go on to obtain board certification as a specialist in forensic psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). In line with this goal, the fellowship is structured to mirror the Postdoctoral Training in Forensic Psychology Guidelines provided by the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) and was approved for extension of the ABFP Experience Waiver in 2023 (approved until 2028). Our program seeks to produce alumni who will be leaders in the field and serve as some of the most exceptional practitioners in forensic psychology.

Bridgewater State Hospital

Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH) provides inpatient forensic evaluation services for men in Massachusetts and was established in 1855. BSH adheres to a recovery-oriented, trauma-informed approach to all persons served. 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 to the hospital.

FELLOWSHIP TRAINING GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS

Training Goals and Objectives

Given the wide range of practice and research areas in forensic psychology, the BSH fellowship emphasizes certain core competencies while providing as many diverse opportunities as possible. The program's philosophy is for these experiences to serve as a foundation from which expanded forensic practice can develop. Consistent with the Education and Training Guidelines for Forensic Psychology (Forensic Specialty Council, 2007), the fellowship's primary aim is to develop competent forensic psychological practitioners. By the conclusion of the fellowship year, fellows will be able to demonstrate core competency in forensic ethical principles, forensic mental health assessment (including familiarly with various specialized forensic instruments), forensic evaluation report writing, interdisciplinary communication and consultation, and fundamentals of mental health case law. The program achieves these training goals through various types of activities, described in detail below.

Applied Clinical Forensic Experience

The primary goal of the clinical portion of the fellowship is the development of skills necessary to conduct high-quality forensic mental health assessments. The fellowship program is designed to provide the fellow with exposure to a wide variety of evaluations in criminal and civil contexts. The types of evaluations a fellow will conduct include:

- Competence to stand trial
- Criminal responsibility
- Need for care and treatment/civil commitment
- Need for hospitalization of mentally ill prisoners
- Aid in sentencing
- Violence risk assessments

Consistent with current standards of best practice in forensic psychology, an emphasis is placed on learning specialized methods for evaluating psycholegal constructs, including utilization of forensically relevant instruments and expertise with various forensic assessment instruments. It is also likely that a fellow will be asked to testify as an expert witness on any number of his/her evaluations for the court. This is an advanced skill that we recognize few fellows will have had any experience. As such, a heavy emphasis is placed on testimony preparation through supervision and, when possible, legal practitioners. Additionally, ample opportunities will be provided for the fellow to observe forensic staff testifying in court.

Training Affiliation with UMASS Chan Medical School/Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital

BSH Fellows will complete two primary rotations focusing on applied clinical experiences conducting criminal forensic assessments. The fellows will complete forensic evaluations at Bridgewater State Hospital for the first six months of the fellowship. During the second half of the year, BSH fellows will complete criminal forensic evaluations at the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital three to four days per week. The Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) opened in 2012 and is run by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH). The 320-bed inpatient psychiatric hospital provides psychiatric services to civilly committed men and women from across the Commonwealth; there are also multiple forensic units that house patients

committed to the hospital by District and Superior Courts in Massachusetts for criminal forensic evaluations. Fellows will complete criminal forensic evaluations at WRCH and will be supervised by Forensic Mental Health Supervisors at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. This training affiliation also provides opportunity for UMASS Chan Medical School forensic psychology fellows to complete forensic evaluations at BSH for the second half of their training year.

Forensic Seminar Series

Another component of the fellowship consists of a two-hour forensic seminar series occurring every other week from September - June, which will take place at Bridgewater State Hospital. The seminar series is taught by various fellowship faculty and outside experts. The purpose of the seminar series is to provide the necessary empirical and theoretical knowledge to obtain certification as a Designated Forensic Professional (DFP) in the state of Massachusetts and, eventually, ABPP specialization in forensic psychology. Many readings are directly informed by the ABFP's "Suggested Reading List for Written and Oral Examinations" (October 2019) and will cover the seven categories of forensic psychology included on the ABFP written examination:

1. Ethics, Guidelines, and Professional Issues
2. Law, Precedents, Court Rules, Civil and Criminal Procedures, and Judicial Practices
3. Testing and Assessment, Examination Issues, and Application of Scientific Knowledge to Legal Procedure (e.g., eyewitness accuracy, reliability of memory, jury behavior, and factors influencing confession)
4. Civil Competence, Individual Rights and Liberties, Workplace Discrimination, and
5. Employment Rights
6. Juvenile, Parenting, and Family/Domestic/Matrimonial Matters
7. Civil Damages, Personal Injury, Disability, and Workers Compensation
8. Criminal Competence, Criminal Responsibility, and Sentencing

The seminar also involves in-depth discussions about landmark legal cases relevant to the field of forensic psychology. Cases have been selected from the ABFP suggested reading list, but will also include statutes, cases, and legal standards relevant to Massachusetts. The seminar also addresses general topics relevant to forensic practice, such as provision of expert testimony, job selection and application, and preparing for state licensure and ABPP specialization in forensic psychology. The seminar series is open to other trainees at Bridgewater State Hospital and any Recovery Solutions staff who wish to advance their knowledge of forensic best practice, the state of science in forensic psychology, and the current legal terrain. Recovery Solutions/Bridgewater State Hospital has been approved by the American Psychological Association to offer Continuing Education (CE) credits to psychologists for this seminar series[1]. Participants will be given a seminar schedule at the beginning of the fellowship year and provided with all readings.

Applied Research Experiences

In keeping with our philosophy that well-rounded forensic psychologists should maintain broad academic excellence, fellows are required to engage in research during their fellowship year (up to 20% of their time, if preferred). Fellows will work with the BSH Research Coordinator, the

[1] Recovery Solutions is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Recovery Solutions maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

Fellowship Director, and the Director of Forensic Services on a research project of their choosing. Fellows may elect to participate in an ongoing research project at BSH (recommended for practical purposes), or pilot a project of their own. All fellows are expected to present the results of their research project to the BSH faculty at the conclusion of their fellowship year. The fellows will also create or update research briefs for commonly utilized forensic assessment tools, and to co-lead and present updated relevant articles in monthly Journal Club sessions. Publication and presentation of the research project is encouraged and supported. In addition, fellows may have the opportunity to supervise graduate research assistants, participate in monthly Research Committee Meetings at BSH when relevant, and assist with manuscript/law reviews (as available).

Mock Trial and Provision of Expert Testimony:

Fellows will participate in a mock trial in the courtroom at BSH in approximately November of the training year. The fellows will use their own forensic evaluations that they have written at BSH to participate in the mock trial process, including focus on voir dire qualification as an expert, competence to stand trial, and need for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization. Additionally, fellows will have opportunity to provide actual expert testimony for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization and competence to stand trial through the Brockton District Court mental health session at BSH, and potentially to other criminal courts across the Commonwealth. It is common for fellows to testify on their cases in the first few months of fellowship and overall very rare that a fellow would not have opportunity to provide expert testimony for multiple cases throughout fellowship year.

Journal Club

In March of the fellowship year, fellows assist in the organization and implementation of Journal Club, a monthly one-hour meeting open to all trainees and staff. Journal Club has several functions, including exposure to scientific work that is an essential part of being a competent forensic clinician, and to encourage trainees and staff to read and appraise science critically and apply to practice as appropriate. Articles are chosen based on their potential influence to clinical and forensic practice at BSH.

Conferences and Other Training Experiences

Fellows have the option to attend various professional conferences, including the annual conference of the American Psychology-Law Society (APLS). The fellowship provides three administrative leave days for conference attendance and includes a $1,100 educational stipend to cover some of the expenses of conference registration and attendance. While not required, fellows are encouraged to submit proposals for papers or symposiums at APLS.

Additionally, fellows are required to attend a series of daylong workshops for forensic mental health professionals that are provided by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH). These workshops also satisfy the requirements for credentialing as a DFP in the state. Towards the end of the training year (June or July), fellows will sit for the written DFP examination also required for credentialing as a DFP in the Commonwealth.

Fellows are also required to present one case conference during the training year, as well as the results from the yearlong research project.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

The program is funded through the partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Correction and Recovery Solutions. The fellowship aims to hire two full-time Forensic Psychology Fellows for the 2026-2027 term, which begins on August 31, 2026. The stipend for the twelve-month appointment is $65,000.00. Fellows will be provided with a package of benefits upon starting the program, in addition to an educational stipend and paid time off (PTO).

SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

Supervision

According to the Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) Supervision Guidelines (2015), supervised practice is critical to the training and practice of psychologists. Furthermore, the APA has recognized supervision as a distinct clinical competency for postdoctoral training (APA Committee on Accreditation, 2016). In keeping with this view, our program has a specific vision for supervision and strives to provide the highest quality of supervision and evaluation for fellows.

The amount and type of supervision provided during the fellowship year is designed to satisfy the licensing requirements in all states and adheres to the ABFP's postdoctoral training guidelines. At minimum, fellows are provided with the following supervision experiences:

- Supervision is provided by a licensed psychologist who is also a Designated Forensic Mental Health (FMH) Supervisor for all forensic evaluations conducted at BSH & WRCH
- Two and a half hours of face-to-face supervision per week
- One hour of forensic group supervision per week

Supervision serves multiple functions throughout the fellowship year. First, the supervisor will facilitate the fellow's understanding of foundational clinical forensic principles (e.g., professional ethics, forensic mental health assessment) through direct observation and frequent consultation. Second, supervision will guide the integration of forensic knowledge acquired in didactics into the fellow's forensic practice. Third, the supervisor will ensure the fellow has acquired the necessary assessment skills for conducting forensic evaluations of the highest quality. At the very least, this will involve an emphasis on enhancing report writing skills, ethical decision-making, and forensic conceptualization. Fellows are expected to become gradually more autonomous throughout the fellowship year, with the aim of achieving professional independence and being prepared to provide high-quality supervision in forensic psychology themselves.

Evaluation

The program includes a formal written evaluation process that outlines the fellow's progress during the postdoctoral year. These evaluations will identify the strengths and limitations of the fellow's skills as a forensic psychologist and occur quarterly.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must be U.S. Citizens and have completed the requirements of an APA accredited Ph.D./Psy.D. program in clinical or counseling psychology by the start of the fellowship, including the defense of their dissertation and successful completion of an APA accredited internship. Applicants from programs accredited by Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) programs are welcome to reach out to Dr. Young to ensure their programs meet eligibility criteria. Applicants of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

The following application materials are required:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Three letters of recommendation (at least one from your graduate advisor or someone who can attest to satisfactory progress in graduate school and one from an internship supervisor) directly emailed to Dr. Young from your letter writers.
- A statement of purpose (1-2 pages) on your experiences with forensic psychology and the reason you are applying to the fellowship program. Please do not simply repeat the different aspects of our program in this letter; rather, help us understand why completing our program will be mutually beneficial.
- *Unofficial* graduate school transcripts (Please note that we reserve the right to request official transcripts later as part of the standard hiring process)
- A sanitized clinical assessment/forensic evaluation will be required *at a later point* for those applicants invited for an interview

Please email all materials to Dr. John Young at Joyoung@Recoverysolutions.us by **January 2, 2026**. Interviews will be offered via videoconferencing platform, with options for in-person tour of the facility available upon request.

[NOTE: BSH is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships. The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) refers to this process as the "Common Hold Date." Although offers may be extended prior to the UAD, applicants will not be required to accept an offer prior to this date.]

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FACULTY INFORMATION

Forensic Staff at Bridgewater State Hospital

Jensen Greene, Psy.D.
Forensic Evaluator
Education: University of Denver – Graduate School of Professional Psychology
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institute – Terminal Island, CA
Postdoctoral Fellowship: Bridgewater State Hospital/Recovery Solutions
Research and Clinical Interests: Psychosocial and neurocognitive contributors to suicide risk among persons in the criminal legal system; relationship between loss of consciousness after traumatic brain injury and neuropsychological performance among justice-involved individuals; impact of torture-related trauma on neurocognitive disorders among cross-cultural refugees

Arianne Fisher, Ph.D.
Forensic Evaluator/Research Supervisor
Education: University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Internship: Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium (NV-PIC): Forensic Track
Postdoctoral Fellowship: Bridgewater State Hospital/Recovery Solutions
Research and Clinical Interests: Psychopathy, hostile and benevolent sexism, the dark tetrad, incel and other "fringe" ideologies, personality disorders and legal decision-making

Kerri Kane, Psy.D.
Forensic Evaluator
Education: William James College
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons, Metropolitan Detention Center Los Angeles
Research and Clinical Interests: Developmental trauma histories among individuals who commit violent crimes; trajectory of adult personality pathology; LGBTQIA+ populations within forensic settings; influence of expert witness testimony on juror decision making; treatment considerations following highly lethal suicide attempts.

Joshua Lapin, Psy.D. (FMH Supervisor)
Forensic Evaluator
Education: Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education & Psychology
Internship: Federal Correctional Complex – Butner
Postdoctoral Fellowship: University of Massachusetts Medical School
Research and Clinical Interests: Child witness testimony (effects of support on stress/accuracy and jurors' perceptions), plea bargaining in the juvenile justice system, forensic and neuropsychological assessment

Megan Masuret, Psy.D.
Forensic Evaluator
Education: Pacific University School of Graduate Psychology
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons- Federal Medical Center, Devens
Postdoctoral Fellowship: Bridgewater State Hospital/Recovery Solutions

Research and Clinical Interests: Forensic interviews with children, co-occurring disorders, sexual violence risk assessment, and culturally-informed forensic evaluations

Jessica McDuff, Ph.D.
Forensic Evaluator
Education: John Jay College of Criminal Justice (MA); Palo Alto University (Ph.D.)
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons- Federal Correctional Complex – Butner, N.C.
Postdoctoral Fellowship: Minnesota State Operated Forensic Services, St. Peter, MN
Research and Clinical Interests: Violence risk assessment, stalking, psychological testing, and therapeutic assessment

Lauren Ryan, Ph.D.
Forensic Evaluator
Education: Sam Houston State University
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons- Federal Medical Center, Devens
Postdoctoral Fellowship: University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
Research and Clinical Interests: Forensic assessment of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, juvenile competency restoration, provision of services for individuals who are incarcerated

Alexandra Sperzel, Psy.D. (FMH Supervisor)
Forensic Evaluator
Education: William James College
Internship: William James College Center of Excellence for Children, Families, and the Law
Postdoctoral Fellowship: Bridgewater State Hospital/Recovery Solutions
Research and Clinical Interests: Intersections between childhood trauma, systems involvement, and severe mental illness in adulthood; assessment and treatment of psychosis; assessment of homicide offenders seeking parole; impact of forensic mental health testimony on judicial decision-making

John Young, Psy.D. (FMH Supervisor)
Associate Director of Forensic Services; Fellowship Director
Education: William James College
Internship: Federal Bureau of Prisons- Federal Correctional Complex – Butner, N.C.
Postdoctoral Fellowship: University of Massachusetts Medical School
Research and Clinical Interests: Police training on responding to persons with mental illness; specialty courts; competence restoration