

SERVICE TO SCIENCE SCHOLARS SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE



VETERAN AND MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM IN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The Minneapolis Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System will provide up to 6 full-time positions to undergraduate and graduate students during the summer. We anticipate the 2022 summer program to be in-person. Program structure and any modifications are subject to change and will be adjusted accordingly to align with VA COVID-19 policies.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

DATES

- June 6th – August 12, 2022 (10 weeks)
- Accommodations for start and end dates may be made for class schedule needs
- Full-time commitment to extensive lab work

STIPEND AND HOUSING

- \$6,000 stipend
- Additional housing allowance (University of Minnesota campus housing is available)
- Travel reimbursement up to \$500

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Real-world experience with cutting-edge Veteran-focused research at a major VA medical facility. Our nationally and internationally recognized award-winning VA faculty are studying a range of questions relevant to Veteran populations, from PTSD, suicide risk and prevention, traumatic brain injury, cognitive aging, severe mental illness, dimensional psychopathology, addiction, sensor technologies and mHealth assessments, to risk and resilience.
- Faculty-led seminars on various interdisciplinary topics in Veteran mental health research.
- Tutorials on applying to, surviving, and excelling in graduate school **and beyond**.
- Social networking activities with other summer researchers in the program.
- Weekly research seminars on topics such as how to's of applying statistics, effective mentoring, and scientific writing.
- Opportunities for authoring papers and scientific presentations.
- Daily experience of learning from faculty mentors, graduate students, & others farther along their career paths.
- Presentation of your research experience to other students and faculty.

WHO CAN APPLY:

This program is open to undergraduate (junior or senior standing) and graduate students in psychology and related health science fields who have strong academic records (minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale). Preference will be given to applicants who have completed Research Methods or related course prior to application. Students who are interested in pursuing research careers and have an interest in Veteran mental health research are especially encouraged to apply.

Program participants must be a US Veteran, member of the military armed services, or child of a US Veteran, and a US citizen. Students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in science are strongly encouraged to apply (e.g., female, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Native American or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander, individuals with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) persons.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please submit the following materials by **March 30, 2022**:

- **Personal statement:** 500-word (maximum) statement describing your academic and career goals, how the SSS-RP would support those goals, and specific research areas in Veteran mental health that you are interested in, as well as potential faculty mentors.
- **Curriculum vitae/resume** describing your academic, research, work experience, and a list of three references.
- **Transcripts:** Unofficial transcripts of all post-secondary institutions attended.

Email application materials to: Derall.King@va.gov

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The Mental Health Service Line at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System through support from the Department of VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts a **Veteran and Military-Connected Student Summer Research Program in Mental Health Research**. VA and ORD recognize that Veterans are underrepresented among scientists pursuing VA mission-critical behavioral science research on PTSD, suicide prevention, post-deployment health and reintegration issues, and other mental health problems. We are eager for student Veterans and military-connected students (e.g., children of US veterans) to gain clinical science understanding of mental disorders necessary for success as a future generation of VA scientists. We are currently seeking applications for a limited number of full-time paid positions for 10 weeks of summer research in collaboration with one or more principal investigators conducting mental health research at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. **Prior research experience is not required, just an interest and curiosity about the scientific process.** Additional opportunities to continue with research involvement for class credit during the school year may be available. Please contact us with any questions: Melissa.Polusny@va.gov and Snezana.Urosevic@va.gov.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

The **Service to Science Summer Research Institute** is a 10-week full-time program that includes:

Hands-on Mentored Research Experience. Undergraduate students are introduced to the scientific community and techniques and practices of clinical psychopathology science. Graduate students are introduced to the VA scientific community and roles and responsibilities of a clinician investigator, including provision of peer mentoring of undergraduates under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

Core Curriculum. Weekly seminars address research communication skills, practical research skills, equity and inclusion awareness, developing identity as a scientist, increasing research independence, and career and professional development skills. Students attend a weekly seminar focused on introduction to relevant data visualization and data analyses software.

Professional Development Activities. The program provides students ample opportunities for networking with other researchers and students, collaborating with research teams, participating in lab meetings, attending research colloquia, and scientific presentations.

Mentorship. Students will be paired with a mentor for weekly meetings and will be expected to contribute to the mentor's active project or projects. Potential mentors and their core areas of research focus include:

- [Carol Chu \(Yu\), PhD](#), Suicide risk and prevention, mHealth assessments
- [Nicolas Davenport, PhD](#), Mild TBI, PTSD, neuroimaging
- [Seth Disner, PhD](#), Genetic factors in PTSD, mild TBI
- [Jacob Finn, PhD](#), Psychological health and social functioning after TBI, TBI Model Systems program
- [Adriana Hughes, PhD](#), Aging, cognitive decline, active/passive sensor technologies
- [Craig Marquardt, PhD](#), Neurobiology of PTSD (EEG), longitudinal study of resilience, personality
- [Melissa Polusny, PhD](#), Risk and resilience, longitudinal studies of military deployment and reintegration, post-traumatic stress disorders, and resilience
- [Paulo Shiroma, MD](#), Randomized control trials for PTSD, ketamine treatment
- [Scott Sponheim, PhD](#), Brain abnormalities in schizophrenia and psychosis, mild TBI, PTSD, neuroimaging, electroencephalography (EEG)
- [Britt Stevenson, PhD](#), Addiction, alcohol use, ecological momentary assessment
- [Paul Thuras, PhD](#), Biostatistics in mental health research
- [Snezana Urosevic, PhD](#), Bipolar disorders, EEG, neuroimaging, mHealth and digital phenotyping