



## **The Predoctoral Externship Training Program in Rehabilitation Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology**

Dear Prospective Applicant,

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Human Performance of the Mount Sinai Health System is pleased to announce its Doctoral Externship Training Program in Rehabilitation Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology for 2026-2027. The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine is dedicated to providing trainees unique opportunities to work in a large, diverse, urban medical center, with a special emphasis on assessment and treatment of individuals with a range of physical and cognitive disabilities. Internationally recognized as a leader in brain injury and spinal cord injury research and clinical care, the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine places a particular emphasis on providing services to individuals who have experienced traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, limb loss or other disorders of the nervous system.

The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine follows the application guidelines set forth by PSYDNYS and NYNJADOT. Our Department requires students to complete a health screening, background check, and drug testing before the start of the externship.

We are excited that you are considering the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine as a part of your doctoral training experience, and we encourage you to read this brochure thoroughly to learn more about our comprehensive program.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Breed, Ph.D.  
Director of Training in Clinical Psychology



## INTRODUCTION

Housed within the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Human Performance, our externship offers **3** externship positions in acute inpatient rehabilitation psychology for the 2026-2027 academic year. The goal of our externship is to expose externs to an inpatient multidisciplinary approach to patient care, and to provide them with unique training opportunities in areas of trauma, medical disability, brain injury, spinal cord injury, limb loss, behavioral medicine, brief neuropsychological assessment, and cognitive remediation. Externs who choose may also complete “mini rotations” in outpatient assessment or intervention. Upon completion of their training year, externs will have a greater understanding of how – in the acute phase of recovery – physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities may impact functioning at the individual, familial, and societal levels.

## THE MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION CENTER

The Mount Sinai Health System is a large hospital system, including eight hospital campuses in New York City and Long Island. Our externship takes place on our in the Mount Sinai Morningside campus, located at 440 West 114<sup>th</sup> street. Mount Sinai Morningside is home to the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Human Performance’s specialty inpatient rehabilitation unit which includes two major programs: Our “Functional” program focuses on the needs of individuals with primarily functional disabilities (e.g., spinal cord injury, limb loss), while our “Cognitive” program focuses on the needs of individuals with primarily cognitive disabilities (e.g., traumatic brain injury, stroke). We also have a “Medically Complex” program which addresses general rehabilitation needs of individuals following debilitating medical illnesses and surgical interventions (e.g., organ transplants, cardiac surgery, joint replacements, multiple sclerosis, etc.). Services are provided to primarily to adults, and some older adolescents. The Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredits four of Mount Sinai’s inpatient specialty programs: SCI, TBI, Stroke, and Medically Complex. The Rehabilitation Center is also home to the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine’s APA-accredited Pre-Doctoral Internship in Clinical Psychology.

## FRAMEWORK

All externs complete three Major rotations during the externship year: Inpatient Cognitive, Inpatient Functional, and Float (serving both programs). Externs will be supervised by three inpatient training faculty who work across the two services.

Externs will also have the opportunity to choose a Mini rotation which will run all year long and which will provide opportunity for outpatient assessment or intervention. Supervision for the mini rotation is provided by faculty within Mount Sinai's Brain Injury Research Center.

### The Major Rotations:

Our major rotations take place in person on Mount Sinai's inpatient rehabilitation units. Externs function as part of an interdisciplinary team which include physiatrists, nursing staff, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and social work.

While on the Cognitive service, externs will work closely with staff psychologists to gain a deeper understanding of assessment and treatment of patients in the acute phase of recovery from traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries. Our most common diagnosis are stroke (ischemic and hemorrhagic), traumatic brain injury, intracranial tumors (benign and malignant), and anoxic encephalopathy. Trainees will be exposed to neuropsychological assessment and treatment, themselves conducting brief neurocognitive screenings and focal batteries to identify brain injury-related cognitive deficits. Clinical responsibilities will also include individual supportive therapy, family therapy, and cognitive remediation, in group and individual formats. Externs will also have the opportunity to conduct brief neuropsychological assessment batteries as part of a research protocol in the inpatient setting.

While on the Functional service, externs will be exposed to a diverse population of patients with physical disabilities. The primary focus of this rotation is clinical assessment and treatment, with externs providing individual supportive therapy to patients and families. Externs will have the opportunity to treat patients within the only spinal cord injury rehabilitation specialty program in New York City. Externs will also see a variety of medically-complex patients who have experienced a wide range of neurological, orthopedic, cardiac, medical, and traumatic injuries including limb loss, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and Guillain-Barré syndrome. Clinical responsibilities will also include individual supportive therapy, family therapy, and the opportunity to participate in an SCI adjustment group led by a senior clinician. Although limited in scope, externs will conduct brief neurocognitive screenings and focal batteries to help differentiate cognitive deficits related to dementia, acquired brain injuries, metabolic disturbances, and/or neurological conditions.

Externs will be involved in approximately **8-10 hours/week** of direct patient contact while on their respective rotations.

## **The Minor Rotations:**

Minor rotations are optional. Students who are interested will choose *one* rotation that will last for the whole training year. Weekly time commitment is expected to be approximately three hours per week. Of note, each rotation can accommodate no more than two students; if more students want a rotation than it can accommodate, students will be offered a position at a second choice. The three rotations are:

### **Resilient Together for Dementia – Supervisor: Sarah Bannon, Ph.D.**

The Resilient Together for Dementia intervention is a novel dyadic skills-based intervention aimed at preventing chronic emotional distress among couples early after a new diagnosis of dementia. The intervention draws from DBT, mindfulness, and third wave couples therapy interventions. Students will be trained to implement the standardized six-week dyadic intervention with a patient with a new diagnosis of dementia and their partner. Interventions are provided remotely. Students may also have the opportunity to co-lead a 6-week group intervention for couples who have completed the Resilient Together for Dementia intervention for continued skills practice.

### **Cognitive Remediation Groups – Supervisor: Eric Watson, Ph.D.**

Students will have the opportunity to co-lead cognitive remediation groups. Cycles are 12 weeks long. Multiple groups are offered, including Emotional Regulation; Executive Functioning; groups for people with long covid; Reading Rehabilitation, and CBT-i.

### **Concussion Clinic – Brief Neuropsychological Assessment - Supervisor: Eric Watson, Ph.D.**

Student will conduct a two-hour neuropsychological assessment battery and will be responsible for write-up of the accompanying report. In addition, the student will provide brief feedback sessions and may offer single-session interventions to deliver psychoeducation and support to patients following assessment.

## **SUPERVISION & DIDACTICS**

Externs will receive 1 hour/week of individual supervision from licensed psychologists on their respective inpatient rotations. They will also receive one hour of group supervision, which is provided by our licensed staff and, as the training year progresses, from pre-doctoral interns. Group supervision is shared with two other externship programs within the Mount Sinai Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology, creating a large peer group which should allow for lively discussions. Externs who participate in a mini rotation will receive additional individual and/or group supervision in support of these clinical activities. Didactics include a bi-weekly lecture series in clinical neuropsychology which includes trainees from across the Mount Sinai Health System, as well as lectures specific to rehabilitation psychology and clinical neuropsychology as they are practiced in our inpatient settings.

## **INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACULTY (major rotations):**

**Sabrina Breed, Ph.D.** – Dr. Breed is the Director of Training in Clinical Psychology, and a Senior Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Breed serves as a supervisor of trainees on the inpatient cognitive service, and is a presenter at select seminars within the training program. Dr. Breed received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Rehabilitation Research in the Department. Her clinical interests include acute treatment of individuals with brain injury, psychosocial adjustment after brain injury, program development for individuals with brain injury and limb loss, and work in group modalities.

**Angela Riccobono, Ph.D.** – Dr. Riccobono is an Associate Professor and Director of the Rehabilitation Neuropsychology Service. She provides clinical leadership and oversight of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation psychology and neuropsychology programs and services. She also supervises interns and externs on the inpatient spinal cord service and is a presenter at select seminars within the internship program. Dr. Riccobono is the Associate Director of Wellness for the Mount Sinai PM&R Residency & Fellowship Programs, responsible for creating and overseeing well-being initiatives geared to improve work place efficiency and culture within the programs. Dr. Riccobono's area of clinical specialization is the psychosocial and adjustment issues of individuals with SCI, particularly the areas of family adjustment, parenting, and sexuality after spinal cord injury. Dr. Riccobono provides leadership and consultation for SCI programming on both inpatient and outpatient services, particularly the Do-It, Life Challenge, and Peer Mentoring programs, and serves on the SCI Community Advisory Board. In 2017, Dr. Riccobono received a grant from the Craig. H. Neilson foundation to develop and host innovative conferences for consumers and health professionals in the area of sexuality after SCI; she also developed an acclaimed website, [www.sexualitysci.org](http://www.sexualitysci.org), on the topic. In 2020, she developed and implemented innovative rehabilitation programs, including pandemic response, telehealth and virtual group programming for Brain Injury, SCI, and Post-Covid patient populations, as well as creative programming to support staff wellness. Most recently, in 2025, Dr. Riccobono received philanthropic support to establish the “Back to Life” Center which will provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services to restore hope and possibility to individuals with disabilities. Other interests include health psychology, psychotherapeutic group interventions, and spirituality and psychotherapy. Dr. Riccobono received her Doctorate in Health Psychology from Yeshiva University.

**Lexi Pritchett, Ph.D.** – Dr. Pritchett is a Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, a supervisor of interns on the inpatient brain injury and functional rehabilitation services, and a presenter at select seminars within the internship program. Dr. Pritchett received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology within the Neuropsychology subspecialty program from the CUNY Graduate Center/Queens College. She completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advanced Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Research in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Her clinical interests include neuropsychological assessment, cognitive remediation, psychotherapy with patients after neurological injury, and teaching emotion regulation skills.

## **BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH FACULTY (mini rotations):**

**Eric Watson, Ph.D., ABPP-CN** – Dr. Watson is an Assistant Professor and Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Watson received his doctorate in clinical health psychology from East Carolina University. He completed his predoctoral internship in Rehabilitation Neuropsychology at the Mount Sinai Hospital and his two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Watson has extensive training in neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation both clinically and in research. He works with neurologically and medically complex individuals with diverse presenting concerns. Dr. Watson's clinical and research interests include forensic neuropsychology, aging and geriatric neuropsychology, cognitive rehabilitation, behavioral sleep medicine, applied electroencephalography, and health interventions for cognitively impaired populations.

**Sarah Bannon, Ph.D.** – Dr. Bannon is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Bannon received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Stony Brook University. She completed her predoctoral internship in clinical psychology in the Brain Health elective track of the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School (MGH/HMS) predoctoral internship program. She then completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship and transitioned to a Staff Psychologist role at the MGH/HMS Center for Health Outcomes and Interdisciplinary Research (CHOIR) and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Bannon has clinical and research expertise in couple and family psychology, rehabilitation medicine, and qualitative methods to inform intervention development. She currently has over 60 publications and has contributed to the development and delivery of patient-caregiver “dyadic” interventions for acute and chronic neurological conditions such as traumatic brain injury and stroke. Her current research is focused on the development of a novel dyadic intervention for couples following dementia diagnoses using the NIH Stage Model for intervention development, as well as brief interventions to support caregivers adjusting to new diagnoses.

## REQUIREMENTS:

Our externship is accepting applications from current doctoral students from clinical, counseling, neuropsychological, rehabilitation, school, or health psychology programs. We have a preference for advanced doctoral students. All applicants must have at least one year of prior psychological testing experience **and** at least 2 years of prior doctoral-level clinical experience. Prior neuropsychological testing experience is preferred, but not required.

Externs must be available **20-hours/week**, distributed over 3 days that are not sequential (i.e., M/Th/F is satisfactory, but not W/Th/F). All externs must be on site on Thursday mornings, between 9am and 1pm, for didactic seminars and group supervision. In addition, we conduct an orientation in early July, and ask that in the first weeks of July externs make themselves available on alternate days so that the orientation can be completed with our entire class.

The externship will begin on July 1st, 2026 and will formally run through June 30th, 2027.

All externs will be onboarded through Mount Sinai's volunteer department. Onboarding is comprehensive and requires multiple medical screens which are then verified by the students graduate program. Materials that will be required include things like:

- o A background check
- o Updated records of your immunizations
- o Recent TB test
- o Toxicology screen

Mount Sinai follows all guidelines established by NYNJADOT for externship applications and matching. For the 2026-2027 cycle this will include, for the first time, a portal for submitting applications and a computerized match. If you are interested in applying, please submit through the portal a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, a work sample (intake or testing report), and 2 letters of recommendation, addressed to:

Sabrina Breed, Ph.D.  
Director of Training in Clinical Psychology  
The Mount Sinai Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Human Performance  
The Mount Sinai Medical Center  
(212) 241-6103  
Sabrina.Breed@mountsinai.org

Questions regarding the externship can be addressed to Dr. Breed at the above email address.

We look forward to reviewing your application!