

**FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP 2024-2025**

ABFP Experience Waiver 2021-25




**Application Deadline:
December 31, 2023**



**SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE**

PSYCHIATRY &
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences
in collaboration with NM Behavioral Health Services
Division & NM Second Judicial District Court

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES

A background image showing a pair of scales of justice, symbolizing law and equity. The scales are slightly out of focus, with the pans hanging from chains. The background is a light, neutral color.

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Overview

University of New Mexico's Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship offers forensic psychology training in multiple environments, incorporating a variety of forensic skill sets, with a diverse group of people, preparing fellows to make a deep impact on the forensic mental health system. The fellowship's structure and training opportunities prepare fellows for independent practice as a forensic psychologist, puts fellows on the fast track to board certification, and opens doors for opportunities in forensic consultancy, policy analysis, program evaluation, academics, and administration.

The Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship represents a partnership between The University of New Mexico School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division and the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court.

The primary goal of the Fellowship is the development of skills necessary to conduct high-quality forensic mental health assessments. By the end of the training year with us, you will demonstrate competency in:

- Forensic ethical principles;
- Forensic mental health assessment, including familiarity with specialized forensic assessment instruments;
- Forensic evaluation report writing;
- Interdisciplinary communication and consultation; and
- Fundamentals of mental health case law, statutory law, and regulatory guidance.

During the training year, you will also gain mental health policy experience via consultative work with New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division. Policy activities include:

- Facilitating an ongoing Learning Community developed for current competency to stand trial evaluators contracted with the Behavioral Health Services Division;
- Developing and delivering training on forensic assessment and issues related to the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health;
- Providing consultation regarding evidence-based approaches to forensic evaluations and best practices in forensic mental health assessment; and
- Participating in a state clinical policy work group.

Applied Training Experiences

Wait lists for adjudicative competency hearings have been described as a national crisis, and New Mexico has a particularly urgent need for competency evaluations. As professionals helping address this demand, postdoctoral fellows will conduct competency evaluations through the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) Competency Clinic..

Your experience will include conducting clinical and competency interviews; administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests; authoring forensic evaluation reports; providing testimony and/or recommendations in court cases and hearings; and providing peer consultation/supervision.

As a fellow, you will conduct both in-custody and out-of-custody evaluations with a particularly complex clinical population. **Because of the unique cultural landscape and great need for mental health providers in New Mexico, you can expect a depth and breadth of experience with various clinical concerns.**

You will be exposed to comorbid mood, psychotic, personality, and substance use disorders that manifest in highly diversified ways, offering a rich training experience that promotes advanced forensic conceptualization skills. You can also anticipate thorough training in and exposure to neurocognitive and neurodevelopmental disorders relevant to competence.

Because of the specific statutory fabric of New Mexico, fellows can expect advanced training in malingering testing, forensic assessment instruments, and other forensically relevant instruments.

Issues of malingering and neuropsychological functioning are frequently considered and feature prominently in cases and supervision.

The unique competency evaluation experiences throughout the postdoctoral year cultivate a strong forensic sophistication transferable to a wide variety of referral questions.

By the end of the fellowship, fellows planning to apply for board certification have several options for high-quality forensic reports they can submit for the practice sample portion of their application.

The forensic evaluations you complete through the fellowship year can also contribute both directly and indirectly to forensic mental health policy issues. In addition to playing a role in addressing the “competency crisis,” our fellows have used their evaluation experience through the SJDC Competency Clinic to offer insight into legislative matters related to forensic evaluation procedure in New Mexico.





Fellows also experience the unique position of working closely with forensic policymakers via New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division of Health and Human Services, contributing specifically to forensic policy advocacy and change. Although the policy experience looks different each year (because of dependence on projects and programs being addressed), you can expect to learn persuasive writing techniques, overall functioning of state systems, and effective participation on committees and boards. Past fellows have written situation reports and policy papers, designed psycholegal programs, conducted program evaluation/outcome research, conducted policy analysis, served as active participants in the Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency and the Legislative/ Rule Change Subcommittee, and served on the Sentencing Commission Legislative Committee.

You will directly impact clinical forensic practice through clinical and policy work simultaneously. Our fellows have assisted in raising the competency evaluator compensation rate, for example. Our most recent fellows ran a qualitative research project to better understand the impact of a new state competency ruling on evaluative practice and procedures. This research is being presented to the NM Supreme Court for consideration of possible rule change. Further, UNM fellows are advocating for small changes to enhance efficiency for competency evaluations.

In addition to working with a diverse range of forensic clientele and evaluatees, you can anticipate working with state officials (legislators, senate, lobbyists, and individuals from the governor's office), judges, attorneys, detention center staff, community program directors, and others who are working together to create a better forensic mental health system.

The fellowship offers additional training experiences that allow fellows to further tailor their training to their professional interests and desired expertise. Additional clinical training in evaluations addressing juvenile forensic assessment, police academy suitability, public safety officer fitness for duty, civil competency issues (e.g., medical decisions), mitigation, civil disability, and other psycholegal questions may be available. In addition, our department has recently expanded with additional faculty conducting forensic behavioral science research with local, state, and national agencies. Collaboration with our forensic research faculty and additional contribution to ongoing forensic policy initiatives with the Behavioral Health Services Division may be arranged. Supplemental training experiences are based on availability, wants and needs of the fellow, and needs of the community.

You will also have opportunities to attend trainings through the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, a UNM mental health law course, monthly Professional Development Seminars with other postdoctoral fellows in the university, and policy seminars taught by CBH staff.

Didactic Training

Our fellows attend the weekly UNM Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health's Law and Mental Health didactic series. Presentations cover a breadth of topics including forensic assessment; the legal system; correctional and community forensic psychology/psychiatry; and child and adolescent forensic psychology/psychiatry. **The didactic series is taught by internationally recognized and up-and-coming forensic experts in mental health and law**, including legal professionals, forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, and forensic psychiatrists. The series has a national audience of hundreds of attendees weekly, including practicing forensic evaluators, licensed clinicians, postdoctoral psychology fellows, psychology graduate students, law students, attorneys, social workers, and medical residents. **You will also have an opportunity to be a Law and Mental Series Series presenter!**

During the training year, you will also participate in a mock trial with the aid of volunteer attorneys and a judge. Using one of the evaluations you complete during the fellowship year, you'll experience first-hand what it is like to be subject to *voir dire*, direct examination, and cross examination under simulated courtroom conditions!

Dissemination of Forensic Mental Health Knowledge

Completing fellowship in an academic environment carries the responsibility of teaching others! You will present both in the CIT ECHO series (attended by members of law enforcement) and our Law and Mental Health series. You will also complete a third dissemination project, such as presenting at a conference or working on a journal or newsletter article.

ABFP Experience Waiver

UNM's fellowship has been approved for the ABFP Experience Waiver, which allows trainees who successfully complete the fellowship to skip the five-year waiting period to apply for board certification as a forensic psychologist. To adequately prepare you for the rigorous board certification process, UNM has devised an intensive curriculum designed to cover key areas of focus on the board certification exam, including best practices in forensic mental health assessment, foundational case law, forensic ethics, cultural issues in forensic assessment, communicating forensic opinions, etc. Our curriculum also includes readings regarding clinical judgment, forensic mental health treatment, lived experience, the Sequential Intercept Model, and other policy-relevant topics. The curriculum will be regularly discussed/reviewed with you at a weekly Group Supervision session.



Salary & Terms

Salary for the fellowship year is determined according to National Institutes of Health guidelines. **For FY 2023 the base salary is \$56,484.00 plus benefits** (PTO, sick time, medical insurance, etc.), depending on experience. We will update with the FY 2024 figures as soon as we receive them.

Fellows also receive a professional development that covers expenses related to the EPPP exam, attaining licensure in New Mexico (e.g., licensure application fees), and attending the American Psychology-Law Society Conference. Additional educational support funds outside the fellowship stipend may also be available.

The Fellowship represents a 12-month commitment with a start date in September 2024 (typically as early in September as possible). Commencement and termination date are somewhat flexible based on individual circumstances. We will hire up to two forensic postdoctoral fellows for the 2024-2025 training year.

Application Qualifications

All applicants must demonstrate the following minimum qualifications prior to the start of fellowship:

- Completed an APA/CPA-approved pre-doctoral internship;
- Obtained a doctorate degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology from an APA/CPA-approved doctoral program; and
- Eligible to work in the United States.

Additionally, the following represent **preferred qualifications:**

- Forensic psychology specialization/experience during graduate training;
- Experience conducting psychological and forensic evaluations;
- Knowledge of forensic issues in psychology;
- Experience working with individuals with serious mental illness;
- Experience working with correctional or forensic populations;
- Experience working with individuals with substance abuse issues;
- Experience with psychological testing, including forensic assessment instruments;
- Educational and teaching experiences with a variety of trainees.
- Mental/behavioral health policy experience.

We encourage applicants of historically marginalized or minoritized backgrounds to apply.

Application Process

APPLICATION MATERIALS & PROCEDURE

To apply, please email the following materials to Dr. Anthony Perillo, Training Director, at aperillo@salud.unm.edu by **December 31, 2023**:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Cover letter addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, as well as your professional background, career trajectory, and career interests;
- Three letters of recommendations from academic/professional references, submitted by the reference directly to Dr. Perillo (aperillo@salud.unm.edu);
- A sanitized forensic evaluation report, preferably regarding competence to proceed.

If you have questions prior to submitting your application, please submit them to Dr. Anthony Perillo at aperillo@salud.unm.edu.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews for the 2024-2025 fellowship positions will all be conducted remotely (Zoom). Interview offers will be made in mid-January and scheduled for late January 2024.

Note: *UNM is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships, known as the Common Hold Date by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The UAD is February 26, 2024 (10am ET). Under the UAD process, offers may be extended at any time prior to February 26, 2024, but applicants are not required to accept an offer prior to that date.*





Living & Working in the Land of Enchantment

Fellowship can represent a challenging year, and having a supportive community and an abundance of recreational activities at your disposal can ease stress levels and greatly enhance the training year! Albuquerque (ABQ) is an excellent place to live and work.

Year-round sunshine and warm weather (though still with weekend skiing at your disposal); excellent food; the world's second-longest tramway to the peak of the Sandia Mountains; breweries and brunch spots galore; rich history and culture; gorgeous landscapes and hiking; rafting on the Rio Grande; the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta; the Albuquerque Isotopes and New Mexico United sports teams; a low cost of living--these are just a sample of the awesome things that come along with living in The Duke City!

In addition to ABQ, the surrounding area hosts an array of recreational activities. Whether taking in the Pueblo Revival architecture and vibrant art scene of Santa Fe; exploring the Taos Pueblo and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Taos; fishing in the Jemez Mountains; driving the Turquoise Trail; or immersing yourself in Meow Wolf (try it--you'll thank us!); the area surrounding ABQ offers an abundance of adventure.

Elsewhere in NM, Las Cruces (check out White Sands National Park), Carlsbad Caverns, and Roswell are all easy and popular weekend trips. ABQ International Support is also readily accessible!

If you want to learn more about life in New Mexico, we encourage you to visit New Mexico True at <https://www.newmexico.org/>. Our current faculty are always happy to provide more information about the area too.

Meet Our Faculty

TRAINING DIRECTOR



Anthony Perillo, PhD, is Training Director of the Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He is a licensed psychologist who has conducted forensic evaluations in the United States and Canada at the private practice, local, county, and federal levels. He received the American Psychology-Law Society's 2021 Early Career Teaching and Mentoring Award for his supervisory, teaching, and mentorship work with forensic trainees. His research focuses on factors that influence clinical judgment in forensic evaluations (funded by the National Science Foundation), language we use about people involved in the legal system, and forensic mental health policy. His supervision approach follows a pedagogy of kindness: strength-based feedback, support tailored to the needs of each trainee, and a working relationship built on honesty and collaboration.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORS



Jeff Younggren, PhD, ABPP (Clinical), serves as the fellowship's Co-Director. He is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Distinguished Member of the National Academy of Practice, he has had a long and distinctive career as a clinical and forensic psychologist. He has extensive forensic experience in trauma, child abuse, memory, delayed recall, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Military Courts, Military Forensic Psychology, general forensic issues and general court-martial cases. He has published extensively on law and ethics and recently edited the book *Forensic Psychology in Military Courts*, published by the APA. He is currently on the committee to revise APA's Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology and has served on a previous revision committee. He also serves as a Risk Management Consultant to The Trust, a position he has had for over 20 years



Carli Bonham, MD, is a psychiatrist with interest in access to care and developing community partnerships. She has been on faculty at UNM since 2010. Along with Dr. Altschul, she oversees the Division of Community Behavioral Health, which addresses health disparities among individuals with mental illness in New Mexico through community-partnered research, clinical, and educational initiatives. In the Division, she also serves as Vice Chair of Community Behavioral Health Policy. Additionally, she serves as the psychiatric consultant for the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. Clinically, she provides direct care through the UNMH Assertive Community Treatment team and to rural communities through the UNM Telebehavioral Health program.



Meet Our Faculty

OTHER UNM FORENSIC FACULTY



Tatiana Matlasz, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences who graduated from UNM's own Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2022. Her forensic evaluation experience has primarily included referral questions concerning competency to stand trial, sanity, mitigation, and violence risk, including for defendants facing the death penalty. She currently conducts competency evaluations for the SJDC Court Clinic and pre-employment screenings for Albuquerque Police Department applicants. Her research interests include antisocial behavior and psychopathic personality traits across the lifespan, diversion and re-entry, forensic assessment, and mental/behavioral health policy. Professionally and personally, she believes in the strength of community, collaboration, and above all, kindness. For fun and to destress, you'll find her baking and cooking soups to share with others, no matter the season!



Jen Perillo, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences. She is a legal psychologist who received her Ph.D. in Psychology and Law from City University of New York's Graduate Center. Dr. Perillo's research has largely focused on legal decision-making and the causes and consequences of bias in the legal system, including issues related to expert witness bias, plea bargaining decisions, false confessions, and racial disparities in legal outcomes. She is also lead evaluator for the New Mexico LEAD project examining the implementation of Law Enforcement-Assisted Diversion in the state. Her work has been funded by national sources, such as the National Science Foundation. Dr. Perillo has also served multiple leadership positions in the American Psychology-Law Society, where she currently serves as Treasurer and as a member of the inaugural Committee on Science Impact/Advocacy and Communication.

AFFILIATE FACULTY



Julie M. Brovko, PhD, is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychology. She serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Clinic. She also co-teaches two case law and mental health courses at the UNM School of Law. She has a private forensic practice and takes both federal and state cases focusing on criminal and civil topics. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from UNM!



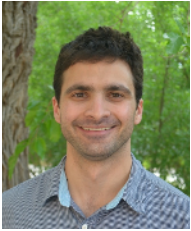
Kimberly McManus, B.S. is the Forensic Program Manager for the State of New Mexico. Her work is focused on supporting forensic mental health infrastructure and public policy for our state. Her efforts originated at The University of New Mexico in 2013 and has worked in various departments of UNM consisting of the Internal Review Board, Continuing Education and Database Services as well as the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences Division of Community Behavioral Health where her focus was on research and education for the State Opioid Response project and with the Crisis Intervention Training project in partnership with the Albuquerque Police Department.



Bronwyn Neeser, PsyD, is the Forensic Policy Program Manager for the State of New Mexico. Her efforts are focused on the intersection between clinical application and public policy, finding creative solutions to solve forensic mental health infrastructure difficulties or snags. Her training includes community mental health, health psychology, and forensic psychology. Her focus and expertise continue to be competency to stand trial evaluations, competency in the judicial system, and public policy. She is currently an ex-officio member of the New Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency and co-chair of the commissions Legislative/Rule Change subcommittee. She participated in the mental health summit executed by the Supreme Court focused on the sequential intercept model, serving as expert support for the 33 counties in New Mexico to assist in identifying support needs for their current mental health systems. Outside of work she loves reading, being in nature, adventures, and spending time with friends, family, and her fluff-ball puppy Franklin.

Meet Our Faculty

OTHER AFFILIATE FACULTY



Noah Painter-Davis, Ph.D. conducts research focusing on developing cross-sector collaborations and practices that improve public safety and reduce contact with the criminal legal system and its consequences. He is an Associate Professor in the Sociology and Criminology Department and the Departments Undergraduate Director. He has a secondary faculty appointment in the University of New Mexico's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences. Current projects include (1) developing practices that reduce contact with the criminal legal system for youth and young adults, (2) implementing best practices to better link individuals leaving prison who are at risk for Opioid Use Disorder to substance use treatment, and (3) establishing Second Chance Pell program at the University of New Mexico which will provide needs-based assistance for post-secondary education for individuals in prison.



Simone Viljoen, PhD, is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Psychology. She serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Clinic. Her professional work has included forensic mental health assessments in numerous referral contexts, as well the delivery of training and workshops in law and mental health-related topics to various agencies. She has co-authored a book chapter and several publications related to violence risk assessment and management, in particular, the use of protective factors in these assessments; gender issues in forensic psychology; and diagnostic issues in personality disorders.

Interested?

Please reach out to our training director with questions!

aperillo@salud.unm.edu

Website info on the UNM Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship:

hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/psychiatry/education/forensic