

# Central Regional Hospital Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024-2025



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of State Operated  
Healthcare Facilities

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
The Hospital and Location.....	4
Fellow Selection Requirements.....	5
Stipend .....	7
Training Goals and Objectives.....	8
Core Experiences of the Forensic Fellowship .....	10
Supervision .....	13
Licensure.....	14
Preparation for Board Certification in Forensic Psychology.....	15
Fellowship Supervisors and FEC Psychologists.....	16

## Introduction

The Forensic Evaluation Center (FEC) at Central Regional Hospital (CRH) offers a Post-Doctoral Fellowship program in Forensic Psychology that provides extensive forensic assessment training to qualified doctoral graduates. This is an opportunity for training in all aspects of criminal forensic evaluation. The majority of the evaluations focus on trial competency and mental state at the time of the offense. Other evaluation issues are sometimes involved, such as diminished capacity, capacity to waive Miranda rights, and risk assessments. We evaluate individuals from all 100 counties of North Carolina, including rural, urban, and suburban areas from the Appalachian mountains in the west to the coasts of the Outer Banks in the east. The individuals we evaluate reflect the diversity of the state of North Carolina. The Fellowship is administered by the doctoral level psychologists within the Forensic Evaluation Center. The Training Director is Board Certified in Forensic Psychology, and all supervisors have many years of experience in forensic practice.

While in the past, both inpatient and outpatient evaluations were involved, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of evaluations have been conducted via videoconference. It is possible that this will change during the 2024-2025 training year and both the post-doc and faculty will have to be flexible and willing to adapt to new circumstances.

## The Hospital and Location

CRH is a state psychiatric hospital setting, offering a comprehensive range of services with inpatient treatment units for children, adolescents, adults, geriatric, and forensic populations, as well as outpatient services for children and families, and pretrial forensic evaluations. The 432-private room hospital serves the acute and rehabilitative mental health treatment needs of adults and adolescents from 26 counties in central North Carolina. From 2007 to 2010 the state closed Dorothea Dix Hospital (Raleigh, NC) and John Umstead Hospital (Butner, NC) and merged them into CRH. The new hospital was designed with large open areas, large windows, and other elements intended to maximize the positive outlook and potential of patients and staff. For more information, visit the [hospital's website](#).

Central Regional Hospital is located in Butner, NC, about 10 miles from Durham, 15 miles from Chapel Hill, and 20 miles from Raleigh. The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area, which surrounds the Research Triangle Park and Raleigh-Durham airport, is known locally as "The Triangle." The Triangle area contains three major universities, other colleges, numerous technology and medical science businesses, a wide range of restaurants and entertainment options, and has become a hub for young professionals. For more information visit the Chamber of Commerce websites for [Raleigh](#), [Durham](#), and [Chapel Hill](#).

The forensic evaluations conducted during the Fellowship are through the Forensic Evaluation Center (FEC). Nearly all evaluations are done related to felony level charges, up to and including capital murder.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the individuals who were evaluated at CRH were transported by either law enforcement or other state psychiatric hospitals and evaluated as outpatients. There is also an eight bed co-ed inpatient unit for admitting patients for evaluation when indicated. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, most evaluations have been performed remotely by videoconference, though outpatient and inpatient evaluations still occur.

If adjudicated incapable, patients may be committed to one of the three state hospitals for treatment. They then receive an updated forensic evaluation, which is usually conducted by the FEC. At CRH, Fellows work with a highly diverse patient population varying in SES, ethnicity, and culture. Regarding ethnicity, defendants include persons of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Anglo American descent, as well as a small number of persons of Native American, and Asian descent.

## Fellow Selection Requirements

Prospective Fellows are required to have a Ph.D./Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology, with an APA approved internship (all degree requirements to be completed by Sept. 1, 2024). Previous forensic experience is strongly preferred. We are looking for incoming Fellows who have the following:

- The ability to conduct productive interviews and mental status examinations;
- The ability to administer, interpret, and score commonly used psychometric measures;
- The ability to write succinct and relevant reports that effectively incorporate extensive data sets; and
- The ability to communicate findings to audiences with varying familiarity with psychological knowledge.

We accept applications on an ongoing basis, but recommend applications be sent by late December/early January. Interviews are conducted in late January and into February. We will observe the Uniform Acceptance Date of 02/26/24. All interviews will be conducted via videoconferencing.

Those interested in applying should send/email a letter of interest, CV, three letters of recommendation, and two deidentified reports. These sample reports should be related to forensic evaluation if possible and should reflect your report writing, rather than a report heavily edited by a supervisor. At least one recommendation letter should be from a supervisor who is familiar with your recent work. Applicants who have not yet received their degrees should also submit a letter from your graduate school's Director of Clinical Training or dissertation chair discussing the progress on your dissertation and progress towards completion of your degree requirements. If this individual is one of your recommendation writers, they can include such information in their recommendation letter.

Email applications to Mark Hazelrigg, Ph.D., ABPP:  
[mark.hazelrigg@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:mark.hazelrigg@dhhs.nc.gov)

Or, mail application to:

Mark Hazelrigg, Ph.D., ABPP  
Board Certified in Forensic Psychology  
Central Regional Hospital  
300 Veazey Road  
Butner, NC 27509-1626  
(919) 575-7341

We look forward to reviewing your applications.

The CRH program is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships. This year, the UAD for forensic fellowships is February 26, 2024. Although our fellowship may make an offer prior to the UAD, we will not require applicants to accept an offer prior to February 26, 2024. *“Applicants are nonetheless encouraged to notify a fellowship of their decision as soon as possible, to allow for more efficient management of opportunities.”* (The Uniform Acceptance Date is essentially the same as APPIC’s Common Hold Date, i.e., the same date is used, with similar provisions.)

## Stipend

The Fellowship has one Forensic Psychology Fellowship position. Compensation is provided through a contract with an hourly rate of \$27.50 (\$55,000 per 2000 hours) for the twelve-month position. Unfortunately, there are no benefits, paid vacation time, paid sick leave, or paid holidays; however, this is hoped to be compensated by our stipend.



CRH Annex—Postdoctoral Fellow Office Location

## Training Goals and Objectives

The goals of fellowship program are that by the end of the Fellowship year all Fellows will have attained competency in the core areas identified below. Training in the core competencies involves gradual acquisition of skills through direct service under experiential learning, supervision, and didactics.

### **Core Competencies**

**General Clinical Skills:** To be a competent forensic evaluator, one must first possess strong general clinical skills. Fellows will continue to improve the breadth and depth of their general clinical psychology skills. Principal among these skills are rapport building; interviewing; selecting, administering, and interpreting psychological tests; case conceptualization; diagnostic formulation; and writing concise and relevant reports.

**Legal Knowledge and Case Law:** Fellows will gain a fundamental understanding of the legal system (e.g., North Carolina and federal) and relevant case law. They will become familiar with relevant landmark cases in mental health law. Fellows will learn the fundamentals of conducting legal research pertaining to psychological practice. They will also be familiar with laws pertaining to expert testimony and admissibility of their opinions in court.

**Criminal Forensic Evaluation:** Fellows will conduct evaluations to answer psycho-legal questions based on relevant statutes and law, with particular focus on capacity to proceed and mental status at the time of the offense. They will be skilled with using forensic instruments commonly used in forensic practice and use them when appropriate. Fellows will also assess for malingering using appropriate methodology.

**Communication and Consultation:** Fellows will write clear, comprehensive, and relevant forensic reports. Fellows will clearly communicate their findings to a varied audience, which includes fact finders, lawyers, psychologists, and/or treatment team members. If the opportunity arises, Fellows will testify as an expert in the North Carolina court system.

**Autonomy:** It is expected as the year progresses that Fellows will become increasingly autonomous in their practice, with the goal of the Fellow being able to independently practice in the arena of forensic evaluation upon completion of the post-doctoral training and psychology licensure.



**Cultural Competency:** Cultural background and context are important in understanding an individual. Fellows will recognize cultural and contextual factors and take appropriate steps in addressing and integrating them in their case formulations. They will choose tests, and interpret clinical data and test results, in relation to the individual characteristics of the person being evaluated. The relevance of this information will be reflected in their reports.

**Ethical Principles:** The Fellow will know and apply the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, and the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists. They will strive to recognize and appropriately address ethical issues.

To achieve the core competencies listed above, the Fellowship program offers series of core experiences found in the next section.

# Core Experiences of the Forensic Fellowship

## **Practical Experience**

The Forensic Fellow spends the year doing assessments with pre-trial defendants who are court ordered for evaluation at the Pre-Trial Evaluation Center (i.e., the Forensic Evaluation Center). Most are evaluations of capacity to proceed (i.e., competency to stand trial) and some are for mental state at the time of the offense. Defendants span the age range of 7 to 90+, including males and females, and reflect the diverse population of the entire state. The underlying alleged offenses are almost always felony level, up to and including Capital Murder. This provides ample opportunity for Fellows to engage in interesting and complex forensic evaluations. Fellows may have the opportunity to evaluate issues such as diminished capacity, capacity to waive Miranda rights, and risk assessments. The Training Director and supervisors attempt to be flexible in meeting the needs and interests of the Fellow based on the referrals received throughout the year.

Although most evaluations are completed as an outpatient, the Fellow may also conduct psychological evaluations on the inpatient Forensic Pretrial unit in response to specific referral questions from forensic psychiatrists.

## Forensic Outpatient Evaluations

Most of the evaluations at the Pretrial Center are completed as outpatients, meaning defendants are evaluated via videoconference or brought from jail to the Pretrial Center by law enforcement for evaluation, and then returned to jail via law enforcement the same day. Fellows evaluate the forensic question, as well as diagnostic impressions, review collateral information, administer/interpret psychological testing (if indicated), prepare written reports of findings for the court, and testify when subpoenaed. Follow-up appointments for continued evaluation and inpatient admission for behavioral observations are also available to assist the Fellow in answering the court's question.

## Forensic Inpatient Testing

Some defendants are admitted to the Pretrial Center for inpatient evaluation. Although a less common source of evaluations for the Fellow, when the primary forensic evaluator is a psychiatrist, he or she may refer the defendant for psychological testing. These psychological assessments are conducted in response to specific referral questions from the primary forensic evaluator, including assessing for malingering; assessing for psychosis; assessing neuropsychological, cognitive, or intellectual functioning; and/or providing diagnostic clarification. A combination of methods may be utilized, including clinical interviews, psychological testing, consultations with staff, and/or a review of collateral information. Tests

may include measures of effort, malingering, neuropsychological screening instruments, intellectual and achievement tests, and/or personality measures.

## **Observation**

We believe that it is important for Fellows to develop their own style of interviewing and report writing. Therefore, ample opportunity is provided to observe supervisors and other FEC evaluators conduct evaluations, allowing the Fellow to see varying styles and approaches.

## **Seminars and Didactics**

### Landmark Cases/Forensic Seminar

The Landmark Case/Forensic Seminar series participation is provided for the Fellow. The series is co-coordinated by Nancy Laney, Ph.D., at CRH and Gillespie Wadsworth, Psy.D., (the Training Director of the Federal Correctional Complex at Butner [FCC Butner] Internship Program). This seminar is taught by staff from both CRH and FCC Butner, as well as other expert professionals from the community. Topics include competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, diminished capacity, risk assessment, sex offender assessment and treatment, forensic report writing, professional ethics, death penalty issues, malingering, neuropsychological assessment in forensic cases, evaluating juveniles, disability determinations, forensic implications of antisocial personality disorder, personal injury and tort litigation, competency to waive Miranda rights, child custody, fitness for duty, forensic evaluations with those with Intellectual Disabilities, guardianship and testamentary capacity, civil commitment, practicing as an expert witness, PCL-R, the North Carolina legal system, rights to receive and refuse treatment, confidentiality/privilege/privacy, informed consent, protection of third parties, professional ethics, malpractice and liability, and gender and cultural issues.

### Forensic Difficult Case Conference

Forensic difficult case conference is held once or twice a month. Pre-trial defendants are interviewed in front of a multidisciplinary group of forensic staff, extensive background information is presented, and group discussion centers on the forensic question. These cases are typically complex, and Fellows can observe how experienced evaluators may view cases differently, while also participating in the process. The Fellow is expected to be the lead interviewer of the defendant in at least one case conference.

## **Testimony**

Mock Testimony is required for the Fellow. The Fellow will be expected to prepare one case for a mock trial with the forensic evaluation staff. The supervisor will assist with the preparation for this didactic experience. The Fellow is also encouraged to

observe testimony of their supervisor as well as any FEC evaluator during their Fellowship training. Moreover, when the opportunity arises, the Fellow will provide direct testimony on evaluations they have conducted when subpoenaed. Taking advantage of these opportunities is encouraged, as testifying is an integral part of being a forensic psychologist.

## Supervision

We take pride in our supervision here at CRH and all the staff are highly invested in the training of our Post-Doctoral Fellow and interns. We believe in a developmental model of supervision, providing the support and mentoring needed as appropriate to the trainee's level of skill and ability. Our goal is for the Fellow to be able to work independently by the end of the training year. Therefore, the Fellow's skills will be continually assessed throughout the year and supervision will be modified accordingly.

The Fellowship provides the trainee with the supervision hours required to be licensed in most states. During the year you will have either one main supervisor for the year or two main supervisors, each for 6 months. All supervisors are licensed by the state of North Carolina. At least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision will be provided each week, with at least one hour a week with your direct supervisor; however more supervision is typically provided. Furthermore, the other FEC evaluators (who supervise interns) are eager to discuss their cases and allow you to observe and/or participate in their evaluations. Therefore, although you will have a main supervisor with whom you will spend the majority of your training, most of the FEC will be involved in your development and training.

Formal evaluations of the Fellow occur mid-way through and at the end of the year. We believe evaluation of supervises is an ongoing process, thus when receiving your mid-way and end of year evaluation, you should not be surprised with its contents, as feedback will be given regularly throughout the year.

## Licensure

Fellows will need to initiate their application for provisional licensure within 30 days of beginning the fellowship. Applicants should be sure they will meet all NC licensing board requirements by the beginning of fellowship

<http://www.ncpsychologyboard.org/>

# Preparation for Board Certification in Forensic Psychology

Although we do not expect all our Fellows to seek Board Certification in Forensic Psychology, through our Fellowship we provide training to aid those interested in doing so. You will receive an in-depth experience in conducting forensic assessments, direct supervision of your forensic practice, and formal education through didactics and other trainings. You will also learn many of the landmark cases that are recommended reading by the board to better prepare you for the Forensic American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) examination. The program has been granted the [experience waiver for application for board certification through 2026](#).

# Fellowship Supervisors and FEC Psychologists

## **Fellowship Supervisors**

### Mark Hazelrigg, Ph.D., ABPP (Forensic)

Dr. Hazelrigg is the Training Director for the Forensic Fellowship at CRH and is the director of the FEC. He also holds an adjunct assistant professorship in the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Department of Psychiatry. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from University of Missouri at Columbia and obtained his Board Certification in Forensic Psychology. He worked at Fulton State Hospital for four years and the Federal Correctional Institution at Butner, NC for eight years. At both of these facilities he conducted criminal forensic assessments and provided treatment with forensic populations. In 1998, he was hired to help establish the state's forensic treatment unit at Dorothea Dix Hospital (which moved to CRH in 2010). During that time, he also conducted forensic evaluations and developed the Post-doctoral Fellowship. He was then appointed to the head of the FEC at CRH and primarily conducts forensic evaluations in addition to his administrative duties.

### Nancy Laney, Ph.D.

Dr. Laney received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Temple University. She completed her pre-doctoral clinical psychology internship at the Forensic Correctional Institution at Butner, NC. In 1996, she began working at John Umstead Hospital (now part of CRH) providing psychological assessment, treatment, and supervision. She also served as the pre-doctoral clinical psychology internship Training Director. Her forensic work at the hospital addressed implementing public policy mandates and developing a capacity restoration program. She also maintained a private practice conducting death penalty evaluations and providing psychotherapy. In 2004, she took a newly formed forensic treatment position at Dorothea Dix Hospital (now part of CRH) on the forensic maximum and super max units, where she worked with persons who were adjudicated incapable of proceeding to trial or not guilty by reason of insanity and found unsafe to release into the community. She also began developing a capacity restoration program. Since 2007, she has been appointed to the FEC where she conducts outpatient criminal forensic assessments and trains fellows and interns. She holds an adjunct assistant professorship in the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Psychiatry. She is actively engaged in the legislative committee of the North Carolina Psychological Association and served as NCPA's President from 2021-2022. Dr. Laney's special interests include: supervision; assessment and treatment of individuals with neurocognitive disorders and neurodevelopmental disabilities; justice, diversity, equity and inclusion and public policy regarding the field of psychology.



Matthew McNally, Ph.D.

Dr. McNally received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University. He trained in state and federal prisons as well as state psychiatric hospitals. Dr. McNally completed his doctoral internship via the former University of North Carolina School of Medicine/Federal Correctional Complex—Butner internship program. He is a proud graduate of our post-doctoral fellowship (2016-2017). Dr. McNally worked for Durham County government (Criminal Justice Resource Center) evaluating adults and adolescents involved in civil and criminal proceedings as well as specialty mental health and drug treatment courts. He returned to conduct forensic evaluations at CRH in 2019. He chairs the Law and Psychology committee of the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA). His special interests include forensic assessment, public policy, and supervision.

**Other FEC Psychologists**

P. Kristen Bird, Psy.D., ABPP (Clinical)

Dr. Bird received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Midwestern University and is Board Certified in Clinical Psychology. She completed her doctoral internship at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, VA. Following completion of internship, Dr. Bird worked at Eastern State Hospital on a forensic admission unit, working with patients found incompetent to stand and insanity acquittees, and completing forensic evaluations for the Virginia courts. Dr. Bird then worked at Broughton Hospital in western North Carolina, first as the chief psychologist of admissions and then helping to create a forensic treatment program for incapable to proceed patients. Dr. Bird began working at CRH in 2019, first in treatment and then as a full-time forensic evaluator in 2020. Her special interests include forensic assessment, psychotic disorders, and clinical supervision.

LaVonne Fox, Psy.D.

Dr. Fox received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology and completed her internship at Federal Correctional Center - Butner. Prior to working in the FEC at Central Regional Hospital, she was employed as a psychologist for the NC Department of Public Safety and at Disability Determination Services. Dr. Fox is currently the program coordinator for the forensic focus intern. She also is responsible for conducting the psychological testing consults from the department of psychiatry here at CRH. Throughout her career, she has conducted criminal and civil forensic assessments and has evaluated both juveniles and adults. Dr. Fox has worked as a contract psychologist at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women conducting risk assessments of violent and sexual offenders, and pre-sentence diagnostic studies for the NC Court System. Her special interests are in forensic assessment, psychological assessment, sex offender related assessments, and clinical supervision.

Susan Hurt, Ph.D., J.D.

Dr. Hurt received her J.D. from Cornell Law School and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Virginia. Before joining the CRH team in 2014, Dr. Hurt was in private practice, where she conducted civil and criminal forensic assessments for juveniles and adults. Her special interests include psychological assessment, psychometrics, and ethical approaches to role definition for psychologists. Dr. Hurt formerly co-coordinated the forensic seminar series. She now directs the state-wide local forensic evaluator training program.

Amy Leeper, Ph.D. ABPP (Forensic)

Dr. Leeper received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Florida State Hospital, a large forensic mental health state hospital, where she received training in various forms of forensic assessment and treatment. She proceeded to be trained in and conducted forensic assessment at Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah. Dr. Leeper has been employed at CRH since 2013 and she obtained her Board Certification in Forensic Psychology in 2021. She serves as a major rotation supervisor for the CRH forensic interns. She is a member of the Law and Psychology committee of the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA). Her special interests are in forensic assessment and malingering detection.

Teresa Wise, Ph.D.

Dr. Wise received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Central Florida where she completed a specialized neuropsychology practicum and taught Clinical Psychology and Advanced Research Methods and Statistics as a graduate instructor. She completed her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral training at John Umstead Hospital (now part of CRH) specializing in neuropsychology, geropsychology, and severe and persistent mental illness. She formerly held an adjunct assistant professorship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Department of Psychology where she taught undergraduate neuropsychology; and she was an instructor in the Distance Education Program at SUNY - Empire State College for courses including Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Brain and Behavior, and Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Wise returned to work at CRH in 2012 specializing in geropsychology, neuropsychological assessment, and treatment of severe and persistent mental illness. She then respecialized in Forensic Psychology in 2014. Her special interests include forensic assessment, neuropsychology, geropsychology, and psychological assessment.