



**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**

2026-2027

Please contact us with additional questions: ForensicFellowships@musc.edu
Community & Public Safety Psychiatry Division
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Medical University of South Carolina
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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

OVERVIEW: MUSC & THE COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION (CPSPD)

Founded in 1824, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is the state's only freestanding academic health sciences center, dedicated exclusively to training health professionals and conducting biomedical research. Today, MUSC includes six colleges and a nationally recognized medical center, offering cutting-edge training for healthcare professionals and researchers. MUSC has consistently been ranked the top hospital in South Carolina by *U.S. News & World Report*, and its commitment to interdisciplinary education makes it an ideal environment for advanced training in forensic psychology.

The Community & Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD) is a division within the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department in the College of Medicine at MUSC. The CPSPD consists of several specialty programs including the Forensic Psychiatry Program (FPP), the Progressive Professionals Program (PPP), the Sexual Behaviors Clinic and Lab (SBCL), the Youth and Family Forensic Program (YFFP), and the Resilient Responder Program. The CPSPD demonstrates a commitment to education and innovation with the Education and Training Program and the research studies currently operating within the division. Diana Mullis, M.D., serves as Director of the CPSPD. All specialty programs are detailed in the relevant sections below.

OVERVIEW: POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at MUSC is a 12-month, full-time training program that offers broad and in-depth experience at the intersection of mental health and the law. The program is designed to prepare clinicians in both the theoretical foundations and applied practices of forensic psychology, while also serving a vital role in meeting the forensic mental health needs of South Carolina.

A key strength of the fellowship is the opportunity to gain supervised experience conducting a wide range of criminal and civil forensic evaluations with both adult and juvenile populations, across the diverse services offered through the CPSPD.

The program includes structured core training components grounded in best practices, as well as elective opportunities tailored to each fellow's background and professional goals. Fellows graduate with the specialized skills, ethical foundation, and clinical confidence needed to thrive as early-career forensic psychologists.

Core Forensic Evaluation Experience

The MUSC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology offers broad exposure to both criminal and civil evaluations across state and non-state forensic systems, providing fellows with a well-rounded training experience.

Fellows gain extensive experience conducting court-ordered forensic evaluations through our contract with the South Carolina Office of Mental Health. These include competency to stand trial (CST) and criminal responsibility/capacity to conform evaluations for both adults and juveniles across several counties in South Carolina.

In addition to these state-contracted cases, fellows also participate in non-state criminal and civil referrals from a wide range of agencies as they arise. These evaluations may include:

- Competency to stand trial (CST)
- Criminal responsibility (CR)
- Independent medical and malpractice evaluations

- Child custody and parental fitness evaluations
- Termination of parental rights
- Juvenile transfer/reverse transfer evaluations
- Adoption evaluations
- Disability and worker's compensation evaluations
- Pre-employment and fitness-for-duty evaluations
- Restoration of gun rights
- Violence risk assessment
- Sexual behavior evaluations
- Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) civil commitment and release evaluations
- Other forensic consultations as available

Assignments are made based on each fellow's skill level, interests, and the availability of referrals across the CPSPD's diverse programs. Fellows are encouraged to develop individual focus areas while maintaining broad competence in forensic practice. Fellows also participate in occasional Consultation-Liaison services to the Institute of Psychiatry and MUSC Medical Center, conducting evaluations related to violence and suicide risk assessment in inpatient medical and psychiatric settings.

Didactics, Scholarship, and Professional Development

Fellows participate in an academic curriculum that includes:

- A weekly Landmark Case Law Seminar
- Mock trials and testimony observation to build courtroom skills
- Teaching and supervision opportunities with graduate and medical students
- Completion of a scholarly project, which may include a presentation (local to international) or publishable paper

Licensure and Board Certification Pathway

Successful completion of the fellowship satisfies the postdoctoral supervised practice requirement for licensure in South Carolina.

MUSC's program also holds a waiver from the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP), which allows our graduates to apply for board certification in forensic psychology immediately upon completion of the fellowship—bypassing the standard five-year post-licensure practice requirement. This waiver reflects the program's quality and intensity of training and gives fellows an accelerated path to earning the ABPP credential, recognized as the gold standard of professional competence in the field.

Getting to Charleston

Charleston is easily accessible by air, rail, and road:

- Charleston International Airport (CHS) is located just 9 miles from the forensics office and offers nonstop service to over 20 cities across the U.S. and Canada via major airlines including American, Delta, United, Southwest, Breeze, and JetBlue.
- Amtrak provides passenger rail service to Charleston via the North Charleston station, connecting the city to the broader East Coast rail network.
- Charleston is also within driving distance of several major cities and is connected via I-26 and U.S. Highway 17.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CPSPD PROGRAMS

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM (FPP)

The Forensic Psychiatry Program (FPP) provides forensic assessment and consultation services in both criminal and civil legal contexts. It supports year-long fellowship training in both forensic psychiatry and psychology and serves as a hub for forensic research funded by federal, state, and private sources.

Fellows gain experience in core forensic evaluations, including:

- Competency to stand trial
- Criminal responsibility/capacity to conform behavior
- Risk assessment and mitigation

The FPP accepts referrals statewide and holds a contract with the South Carolina Office of Mental Health's Forensic Services Center, enabling fellows to conduct court-ordered evaluations for adults and juveniles across multiple counties.

PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM (PPP)

The Progressive Professionals Program (PPP) specializes in evaluation, intervention, and monitoring of professionals referred due to employment-related concerns. This includes:

- Fitness-for-duty assessments
- Pre-employment screenings
- Evaluations for professional sexual misconduct, substance use, aggression, and cognitive decline

PPP examinees include physicians, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, federal employees, corporate executives, and graduate-level trainees. To preserve privacy, services are provided off the main MUSC campus.

The multidisciplinary clinical team includes board-certified experts in forensic psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, neurology, and neuropsychology, as well as licensed psychologists, counselors, and social workers. The program is directed by Dr. Diana Mullis, a board-certified adult and forensic psychiatrist with extensive experience in professional conduct evaluations.

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS CLINIC AND LAB (SBCL)

The SBCL provides clinical and forensic evaluations and treatment for individuals with sexual behavior disorders, including paraphilic disorders and sexually abusive behavior.

Services include:

- Clinical and forensic interviews
- Psychological testing
- Physiological assessments, including:
 - Penile plethysmography (PPG)
 - Photovaginal plethysmography
 - Visual reaction time testing

The SBCL houses one of the few labs in North America with photovaginal plethysmography capabilities and is one of two Limestone Technologies-certified clinical and research PPG labs in South Carolina.

Fellows may participate in:

- Weekly group treatment for individuals charged with or convicted of sexual offenses
- Individual therapy

- Forensic evaluations for courts and agencies, including those related to South Carolina's Sexually Violent Predator Act (SVP commitment and release proceedings)

Examinees are referred from criminal, civil, and family courts, as well as agencies such as the Attorney General's Office, Office of Mental Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Social Services.

YOUTH & FAMILY FORENSIC PROGRAM (YFFP)

The Youth and Family Forensic Program (YFFP) provides specialized assessment and consultation services to support juvenile and family court proceedings. The program addresses a broad range of forensic issues involving children, adolescents, and families.

Evaluation services include:

- Child custody and parenting evaluations
- Termination of parental rights
- Parental fitness assessments
- Adoption-related evaluations
- Juvenile transfer and reverse transfer evaluations
- Child protection and dissolution of marriage cases

The YFFP team is multidisciplinary, with professionals trained in child development, family systems, and evidence-based parenting interventions. All doctoral-level evaluators have completed formal training in forensic psychology and apply best practices in conducting evaluations involving legally involved youth and families.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The CPSPD serves as a multidisciplinary training site within MUSC, offering educational opportunities for learners at multiple levels and from various disciplines.

Training programs include:

- Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology (described in detail below)
- Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, a 12-month Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited program focused on the application of psychiatry to legal questions
- Medical student and resident education, including didactic and clinical instruction for general psychiatry residents, child and adolescent psychiatry fellows, addiction psychiatry fellows, and predoctoral psychology interns
- Undergraduate and graduate training, including opportunities for social work and criminal justice students to gain exposure to forensic mental health practice

Forensic psychology and psychiatry fellows share didactic seminars and frequently collaborate on evaluations, fostering an environment of peer learning and interdisciplinary training.

TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Location

Fellows will primarily work at MUSC's off-campus facility located at 29 Leinbach Drive, Charleston, SC. This site houses multiple interview rooms, faculty and fellow offices, a penile plethysmography (PPG) lab, and dedicated spaces for psychological testing, telepsychiatry, group treatment, and research.

Interview rooms are equipped with video surveillance and safety features to ensure a secure environment. Most evaluations are conducted on-site, with examinees typically transported to this location. Occasional travel to alternative sites for evaluations or consultations may be required.

Population Served

Examinees present with a broad range of psychopathology, including serious mental illness (acute or in remission), substance use disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, behavioral and neurocognitive disorders, and personality disorders. Detained individuals are typically transported for evaluation by agencies such as sheriff's offices, county police, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the South Carolina Department of Corrections, while examinees released on bond attend scheduled evaluations independently.

Estimated Division of Responsibilities

The following percentages represent an approximate breakdown of a fellow's time and may vary based on case referrals and individual interests:

- State criminal cases (competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility/capacity to conform): 60%
- Non-state cases and consultation: 15%
- Psychological testing: 5%
- Forensic treatment: 5%
- Supervision: 5%
- Didactics and case law seminars: 5%
- Research: 5%

Psychological Assessment

Under supervision, fellows develop proficiency in forensic psychological assessment, particularly feigning and personality evaluations. Commonly used tools include:

- Miller Forensic Assessment of Symptoms Test (M-FAST)
- Structured Interview of Reported Symptoms (SIRS-2)
- Inventory of Legal Knowledge (ILK)
- Test of Memory Malinger (TOMM)
- Validity Indicator Profile (VIP)

Fellows also become familiar with specialized instruments for custody and sexual behavior cases. They gain experience with structured forensic tools such as the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool–Criminal Adjudication (MacCAT-CA), Evaluation of Competency to Stand Trial–Revised (ECST-R), and Rogers Criminal Responsibility Assessment Scales (R-CRAS). Consultation experience in violence risk assessment using instruments like the HCR-20 Version 3 and Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG) may also be available.

Expert Testimony

Fellows receive guided preparation for court testimony on forensic issues such as competency and criminal responsibility. They have opportunities to observe faculty testify in court and participate in one to two mock trials per year to develop courtroom skills.

Research

While not the primary focus, fellows are required to engage in scholarly activities, either by joining faculty research projects or initiating their own. Each fellow must present one scholarly project during the fellowship year. Attendance and submission to attend a professional conference are strongly encouraged, with funding provided to support attendance.

Forensic Treatment

Treatment opportunities are available based on clinical needs. Interested fellows should inquire for more information.

Supervision

Each fellow receives a minimum of one hour of weekly individual supervision from a licensed clinical psychologist with specialty training in forensic psychology. This primary supervision covers forensic casework, psychological assessment, research projects, and professional development.

Additional supervision is provided by a multidisciplinary team of CPSPD faculty, tailored to the fellow's case assignments and training needs.

EDUCATION AND DIDACTICS

Teaching and training fellows are top priorities at CPSPD. To support this, we offer a comprehensive seminar series featuring presentations, video reviews, and hands-on learning experiences. Experts from MUSC and affiliated institutions regularly present on a wide range of topics relevant to forensic psychology.

Additionally, fellows participate in a Landmark Case Law Series, designed to deepen their understanding of key legal cases impacting mental health and forensic practice.

EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

Clinical supervisors conduct formal evaluations of fellows on a quarterly basis, highlighting strengths and areas for continued growth. These sessions provide constructive feedback to guide the fellow's development throughout the training year.

At the fellowship's conclusion, a comprehensive final evaluation summarizes accomplishments and outlines recommendations to support the fellow's transition into early career practice. Supervisors also encourage ongoing, open communication and welcome feedback from fellows at any time during the program.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The MUSC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology offers a distinctive interdisciplinary training environment. Fellows train alongside participants in the MUSC Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship, fostering ongoing collaboration and mutual learning throughout the year.

This integrated model enables fellows to benefit from diverse professional perspectives, working closely with psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and other specialists to enhance clinical and forensic expertise.

FELLOWSHIP TRAINING DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR:

Fellowship Training Directors:

Emily Gottfried, Ph.D.: Dr. Gottfried is an Associate Professor and clinical forensic psychologist in the MUSC Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD). She conducts forensic evaluations for the courts, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and fitness-for-duty/pre-employment assessments. Dr. Gottfried serves as the Director of the MUSC Sexual Behaviors Clinic and Lab (SBCL), overseeing sexual behavior evaluations and providing expert testimony.

As Director of CPSPD Student Education and Research, she supervises and mentors learners across disciplines, including undergraduate students, medical students, psychiatry residents, psychology interns, and forensic fellows. Nationally, Dr. Gottfried is the immediate Past-President of the Assessment Section of Division 12 (Clinical Psychology) of the APA and serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA).

Licensed in South Carolina and Georgia, her research focuses on sexual behavior risk assessment, the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act, physiological assessment of sexual arousal, and enhancing the predictive validity of forensic assessment tools.

Abby L. Mulay, Ph.D.: Dr. Mulay is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She first earned a Bachelor's of Music in Jazz Voice Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and worked as a professional singer for several years in New York City. Dr. Mulay then obtained her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Long Island University (Brooklyn Campus). She completed her pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology (forensic track) at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine/Federal Correctional Complex (Butner, NC). After internship, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical forensic psychology at MUSC. In her current role at MUSC, Dr. Mulay conducts forensic evaluations (e.g., competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, pre-employment/fitness for duty, psychological autopsy) and supervises trainees in their forensic work. She also maintains a small outpatient psychotherapy practice, where she specializes in the treatment of personality and interpersonal dysfunction. She uses an integrative approach to psychotherapy, drawing upon the principles of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), as well as the relational psychodynamic tradition.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Mulay has several research projects underway examining issues related to forensic evaluation. She also studies the clinical utility of the Alternative DSM-5 Model for Personality Disorders (AMPD). Dr. Mulay was a co-editor of a book that outlines the use and research support of the AMPD, entitled, *The DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorders: Integrating Multiple Paradigms of Personality Assessment*, and she has two edited books in preparation that will be released in late 2025 and 2026. She is currently serving as a Representative-At-Large for the Society of Personality Assessment (SPA) Board of Trustees, and she is the recent recipient of the SPA John E. Exner Scholar Award. She is an Associate Editor for two peer-reviewed journals (i.e., *Journal of Personality Disorders* and *Assessment*), and she serves on the editorial boards of several personality and criminal justice journals. In her spare time, Dr. Mulay is a reptile enthusiast and cares for several species. She is also a devoted cat person.

FACULTY AND STAFF

CPSPD Team Members:

Diana M. Mullis, M.D.: Dr. Mullis is the Director for the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division and holds the rank of Clinical Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She also holds positions as a Medical Director, Adult Services, Mental Health Integrated Center for Clinical Excellence (MH-ICCE) and Associate Director, Psychiatry Hospitalist Division (PHD). Dr. Mullis is Board-certified in Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. She completed her residency training in Psychiatry and Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry at MUSC. Prior to her psychiatric training and subsequent practice in the field of Psychiatry, she practiced for several years as a board-certified physician in the field of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Mullis maintains a clinical practice and actively participates as a faculty member to train and supervise medical students, residents, and fellows. Dr. Mullis is experienced in performing criminal and civil evaluations for the defense and plaintiff, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and diminished capacity. She also has experience in performing evaluations for mitigation; violence risk assessments; fitness for duty; Independent Medical Evaluations; standard of care and malpractice case analysis; emotional harm and disability; working with public safety officers; and providing correctional medical care.

Jordan Bowe, Psy.D.: Dr. Bowe is a clinical psychologist and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She earned her bachelor's degree from Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi, and her doctorate in clinical psychology from Eastern Kentucky University. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Florida State Hospital, a large forensic hospital in Chattahoochee, Florida, and a postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology at MUSC. In her current role, Dr. Bowe conducts a range of forensic evaluations with adults and juveniles, including competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, fitness for duty, and mental health assessments. She also provides outpatient therapy for individuals on federal probation presenting with diverse clinical concerns. In addition to her clinical and forensic work, Dr. Bowe is engaged in teaching and supervision of psychiatry and psychology trainees. Her research focuses on the intersection of personality assessment, response style, and forensic evaluation, with the aim of advancing assessment practices in forensic contexts.

William Burke, Ph.D., LPC: Dr. Burke is the president and clinical director of Southeastern Assessments, which provides forensic evaluations and treatment primarily with sex offenders and individuals with sexual disorders. He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Burke has personally evaluated and tested over 6,000 sexual offenders. Of those evaluated, approximately 3,000 have undergone a penile plethysmograph study conducted by Dr. Burke or under his direction.

Sheresa Christopher, Ph.D., ABPP: Dr. Christopher attended Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University (PAU) where she earned a Forensic Psychology Emphasis Certificate, a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology. She attended a pre-doctoral internship at the University of Massachusetts and Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at Augusta University in a partnership with East Central Regional Hospital. Dr. Christopher currently holds an academic position as an affiliate faculty member within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She previously served as the Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology. Dr. Christopher is a Specialist of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Christopher primarily conducts forensic evaluations with juveniles and adults pertaining to several psycho-legal issues (e.g., competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, parental fitness, child custody, etc.) and provides expert testimony relevant to questions assessed. She also provides psychological assessment services, conducts psychological autopsy evaluations of decedents, and provides consultation regarding violence risk. Professional and research interests include justice-involved youth, forensic evaluation in family court, and trauma-informed care. She is particularly interested in the psychological and behavioral sequelae of trauma exposure in youth in the juvenile justice system and associated treatment methodologies.

Elizabeth Evans, LISW-CP: Ms. Evans is the director of MUSC's Resilient Responder Program. She integrates aspects from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Fire Service Psychology Association, with clinical tools from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT). Ms. Evans has received specialized training in crisis incident stress management and law enforcement wellness. She is also embedded into peer support teams for Charleston County Sheriff's Office and North Charleston Fire Department for on-demand supports. In addition, she provides support services for the Charleston Police Department (i.e., Forensic Services).

Anna Feinman, Ph.D.: Dr. Feinman is a licensed clinical psychologist and forensic evaluator in the MUSC Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD). She serves on faculty as a clinical assistant professor at MUSC. Dr. Feinman obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Political Science:

International Relations at UC Santa Barbara. She then received her Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Southern California and a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Psychology and PhD in Clinical Psychology with a Forensic Emphasis from Palo Alto University. She completed a pre-doctoral internship at Heartland Behavioral Health through the Ohio Psychology Internship (Inpatient Track) and a postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology at the University of New Mexico, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Feinman began her career in mental health as a Marriage and Family Therapist, working primarily with children diagnosed with serious mental illness and their families. Since then, she has worked with a variety of forensic populations both on an inpatient and outpatient basis. Her primary clinical interests are in criminal and civil forensic evaluations, restoration treatment, and risk assessment. She conducts research in the areas of lone-wolf terrorism, extreme overvalued beliefs, and supervision in forensic assessment.

Christopher S. Fields, M.D.: Dr. Fields is an Assistant Professor and the Associate Training Director for the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at MUSC. He is Board Certified in Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Forensic Psychiatry. Dr. Fields completed Fellowships in Forensic Psychiatry and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. Dr. Fields has experience with adult populations on forensic issues, including: competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, mitigation, disability and Independent Medical Examinations. Additionally, Dr. Fields specializes in forensic evaluations with children, adolescents and families including: competency, disability, emotional harm, parental fitness and child custody. Prior to his current work at MUSC, Dr. Fields served as medical director for a large residential psychiatric treatment facility for children in Atlanta, GA. In addition to his forensic work, Dr. Fields has clinical roles at MUSC running an acute adult psychiatric unit and providing outpatient treatment for adolescents consulting with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice.

Anthony Finke, MA, LPC: Mr. Finke is a licensed professional counselor in the MUSC Community and Public Safety Psychiatry Division (CPSPD) and serves as an examiner on forensic evaluations at MUSC. Mr. Finke obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Clemson University. He began his career experience with the following opportunities: working as direct-care staff in residential therapy programs for at-risk adolescents, working as a caseworker with the Department of Social Services, and in supervisory positions in various therapeutic settings. He then worked towards his Master of Arts Degree in Counseling from Webster University. Since then, Mr. Finke has spent most of his career as a clinician working with a variety of individuals and families in inpatient mental health programs and in non-profit and private outpatient settings.

Craig Legates, MA, LPC: Mr. Legates retired from law enforcement after serving for 28 years. He has dedicated his second career to supporting the mental health and emotional well-being of first responders, veterans, and others who work in similar high-stress jobs. He offers this support through the MUSC Resilient Responder Program.

E. Thomas Lewis, III, M.D.: Dr. Thomas Lewis is an addiction and forensic psychiatrist and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). His areas of clinical interest include inpatient crisis stabilization and detox, medication assisted treatment for addiction, recovering professionals, and forensic evaluations for a variety of criminal and civil settings. Dr. Lewis also supervises and teaches medical students, residents, and fellows. He is associate dean for student progress in the college of medicine. Dr. Lewis also serves as associate medical director of the Mental Health Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence (ICCE). Dr. Lewis is also the fellowship director for the forensic psychiatry fellowship program. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at Queens University of Charlotte. He then went on to complete medical school, general psychiatry residency, addiction psychiatry fellowship, and forensic psychiatry fellowship at MUSC.

Dr. Lewis is actively involved in organizational psychiatry. He is a South Carolina representative to the American Psychiatric Association Assembly. He also serves on the executive committee of the South Carolina Psychiatric Association. Dr. Lewis is also involved in a variety of research projects focused on better understanding addiction-related issues in forensic settings. He has also been recognized through the court as an expert witness in addiction and forensic psychiatry within the state of South Carolina.

Laura G. McCabe, M.D.: Dr. Laura G. McCabe is a board-certified adult psychiatrist with additional training in forensic psychiatry. She enjoys working with a wide variety of patients and treating a range of diagnoses. She has a special interest in working with patients with mood and psychotic disorders, and she enjoys helping patients gain stability during times of crisis. Dr. McCabe graduated with her B.S. in neuroscience from Tulane University. She earned her medical degree from MUSC before moving to Louisiana for residency. She completed her psychiatry residency at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. During residency, Dr. McCabe was recognized for her outstanding clinical skills and dedication to patient care. She received the Roger Hatchette Award for Excellence in Emergency Psychiatry as well as the LSU Department of Psychiatry Award for Excellence in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. After residency, Dr. McCabe moved back to South Carolina and completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. During her fellowship, she gained experience working on a variety of civil and criminal psychiatric cases, including risk assessments, disability cases, and fitness for duty evaluations. Dr. McCabe is a clinical assistant professor in the Psychiatry Hospitalist Division of the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Joe Secondary, RPSGT, RST, Lab Technician: Joe Secondary graduated from Laboure College in Boston, MA with a degree in Clinical Neurophysiology. He trained in EEG, SLEEP, EP, EMG, IOM and LTM epilepsy diagnostic studies. He has worked in clinical and research sleep and neurophysiology since 1993. He is a registered Polysomnographic Technologist and has managed sleep centers for over 10 years. Furthermore, he specializes in sleep lab development and has experience in community and corporate education for sleep disorders and sleep wellness. He has worked at MUSC since June 2010.

Nicole Sussman, M.D.: Dr. Sussman was born and raised outside New York City and attended Washington University in St. Louis for her undergraduate studies where she majored in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology. She went to medical school at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and then moved to Seattle for her Adult Psychiatry Residency at University of Washington. Next, she switched coasts again for her Child and Adolescent Fellowship at Harvard's Cambridge Health Alliance. After this, she completed a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at MUSC, where she has since stayed on as faculty. Dr. Sussman's clinical interests include play therapy, adolescent residential treatment, preventing sexual abuse, and group therapy. Outside of work, she enjoys being outside with her family, live music, dessert, and traveling.

CPSPD Administrative Staff:

Allison Floyd, B.S. (Administrative Assistant): Ms. Floyd obtained a B.S. from the University of Central Florida in December of 2005. She provides numerous services to assist CPSPD faculty in conducting forensic evaluations for the legal system.

Beth Matheson, B.S. (Fellowship Program Coordinator/Administrative Assistant): Ms. Matheson obtained her B.S. from Binghamton University and her Paralegal Certification from Montclair State University. She has a background in project management, finance, and legal studies. She has worked as an expert witness and mediator for the NJ court system. She provides department support for ACGME compliance and reporting, fellow onboarding and rotation schedule management. She provides administrative case management and support.

Heather H. Plunkett, B.A. (Administrative Coordinator): Ms. Plunkett obtained her B.A. from Charleston Southern University in 1998. She has almost 20 years of combined experience in the Legal and Human Resources fields. She earned her Professional Administrative Certification of Excellence from the American Society of Administrative Professionals (ASAP) in February 2023. Her position provides skilled, high-level administrative support to CPSPD.

Eligibility

Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited graduate program and have completed an APA-accredited pre-doctoral internship. If the degree has not yet been conferred at the time of application, a letter from the graduate program confirming that all degree requirements have been met and specifying the anticipated conferral date is required. The degree must be conferred no later than August 31 of the fellowship start year.

Applicants should have strong general clinical training, solid experience in psychological assessment and report writing, and preference will be given to those with forensic experience.

Application Process

The deadline for complete applications is January 6 annually. MUSC participates in the Universal Acceptance Date (UAD)/Common Hold Date (CHD) process for forensic fellowships. For the 2026 fellowship cycle, the UAD/CHD is February 23, 2026.

While offers may be extended prior to the UAD/CHD, applicants will never be required to accept an offer before this date. Applicants are encouraged, however, to communicate decisions promptly to facilitate efficient management of fellowship opportunities.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Eligible applicants must complete the application form found at the **end of this brochure**. Along with the application, candidates are required to submit:

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Personal statement (1–2 pages)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official graduate transcripts

Please compile all **application materials except letters** of recommendation and transcripts into a single PDF and submit it via email to **ForensicFellowships@musc.edu**. Letters of recommendation and official transcripts may be sent either by email to the same address or by mail to:

29-C Leinbach Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

Following a review of applications, selected candidates will be invited for a virtual interview.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The fellowship salary is based on the funding levels established by the National Institutes of Health for doctoral-level trainees and is updated annually. As a point of reference, the salary for the 2025–2026 training year was \$62,232.

In addition to the stipend, MUSC offers a comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, as well as annual, professional, and sick leave.

The CPSPD also funds fellow attendance at a professional conference as part of the fellowship training. Fellows enjoy the added benefit of living in Charleston, South Carolina, known for its relaxing coastal atmosphere and vibrant culture.

OUTCOMES

All graduates of the MUSC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology have successfully secured employment within the forensic psychology field. Alumni currently work in diverse settings, including:

- Division of Forensic Services, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Fourth Judicial District Court Psychology Services
- Disability Determination Services, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation
- Division of Trauma Recovery Services, UCSF Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Center for Integrated Intervention
- Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Center for Behavioral Medicine, MUSC
- Private practice

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

29C Leinbach Drive

Charleston, SC 29407

APPLICATION FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**Deadline: January 6**

Date: _____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Social Security No. _____ D.O.B. _____

EDUCATION	INSTITUTION	ADDRESS <i>(Street, City, State, Zip)</i>	DATES <i>(Start – End)</i>	DEGREE
Undergraduate				
Graduate School				
Internship				
Other				

Signature _____

Mailing Address _____

_____Present Address _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. License to practice in State(s) of _____ License No(s) _____ Date(s) _____

2. Is there any reason that you could not perform the essential functions of a psychology fellow in the training program at the Medical University of South Carolina with or without accommodation? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, please explain on a separate sheet the required accommodation and how, with it, you could perform the essential functions of the position.

3. If **not** a U.S. citizen and/or if graduated from a foreign graduate school, please complete the following (if applicable):

Type of Visa _____

Do you intend to apply for U.S. citizenship? _____

ECFMG Certificate Number _____

Attach a copy of the certificate or interim certificate. If you are now in the U.S. give date and port of entry _____.

4. Chronological list of most salient activities including publications, academic honors, and any further special training which you have. You may attach a detailed CV instead.

Fellowship Appointments: Applications should be forwarded to ForensicFellowships@musc.edu as one file when possible (e.g., excluding materials that have been sent from the original source). Supporting documentation for this application are to be sent including:

Application Form
Curriculum vitae
A personal statement (1-2 pages)
Three letters of recommendation

Official copy of graduate transcripts
Copy of graduate degree or DCT Letter