

PhD and PsyD Training Opportunities at The Lourie Center

2026-2027 Academic Year Deadline: January 29, 2026 at 5pm

The Lourie Center for Social & Emotional Wellness, a part of Adventist HealthCare, offers training opportunities in psychology and related fields to students seeking experience and training in clinical work with young children and their caregivers. The Lourie Center provides relationship-based mental health services that actively promote psychological well-being for children birth to 12 and their families, that are attachment-centered, trauma-informed, equity-advancing, and team-based.

We accept third and fourth year (pre-internship) psychology externs. Applicants with some clinical child experience and psychological testing are preferred. We seek diversity in our applicants and encourage students with multilingual skills to apply for placement.

Parent-Child Clinical Services: The Parent-Child Clinical Services Program is a licensed outpatient mental health clinic that offers a comprehensive approach to the early assessment, treatment, and prevention of emotional, behavioral, and developmental problems in children ages birth through age 12. Using a family-centered, developmental approach, the multidisciplinary staff members provide a wide range of assessment, treatment, consultation, and training services to promote children's healthy development, enhance parenting capacities and foster positive parent-child relationships. Most of the families served in this program are low-income and are referred to by parents themselves, pediatricians, other mental health service providers, local Child Welfare agencies, schools and other community agencies. Child psychiatrists are on-site twice per week for collaboration and medication-based treatment.

Students placed in this program would be assigned cases based on client need, time availability and student interest. The student serves as the primary therapist for the child under the supervision of a licensed staff member. Therapy begins with a comprehensive evaluation providing diagnostic feedback to caregivers, co-creating a treatment plan with appropriate interventions, executing this treatment plan (individual therapy, dyadic therapy, parent guidance, etc.), collaboration with professionals working with the family and treatment plan reviews. The student is responsible for all clinical documentation for their clients.

Therapeutic Nursery Program: Our Therapeutic Nursery Programs (TNP) include two specialized preschool classrooms that address the needs of young children ages three to five who are not succeeding in a traditional preschool setting due to social, emotional, or developmental difficulties. The TNP provides a therapeutic milieu that focuses on social-emotional development in addition to early childhood education. Children learn to regulate the expression of their feelings, improve behavior within the classroom, and improve self-esteem by experiencing success in the group program. The program emphasizes building trusting relationships based on the philosophy that healthy relationships are the context for learning, growth, and change. Our program also provides family-focused services to address the needs of families and caregivers.

Students placed in the TNP will utilize attachment theory as the framework for supporting children's development. With the support of the TNP staff, students will learn how to support

children who may have histories of trauma, anxiety, depression, selective mutism, or a range of other challenges. Students will help children learn to express their feelings appropriately, practice personal safety skills, strengthen positive relationships with safe adults and caregivers, and build their self-esteem and self-concept. Students will join weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings to process the experiences in the classroom and discuss case histories, family dynamics, and treatment goals of the children. They will also assist in clinical documentation for the program. There are two Therapeutic Nursery Program sites- one in Rockville, MD and one in Hyattsville, MD; the psychology externship is offered in Rockville, MD only.

Psychological Testing Program: Psychology externs will develop competencies in psychological testing under the supervision of a clinical psychologist. Testing opportunities include cognitive, social and emotional, ADHD, neuropsychological and developmental assessments with young children. Students with experience and/or training in administering projective measures are highly encouraged to apply.

Core Training Experience

All students will gain experience in interventions with young children and their families from a relational, psychodynamic perspective with emphasis on understanding the child within an intergenerational family context. Clinical application of attachment theory is a central focus. Student caseloads vary based on discipline, experience, and schedule. All students participate in a student seminar, which offers a thoughtful integration of theory and ongoing clinical practice. All students receive reflective supervision based on their program/degree needs.

Psychology Externs: Psychology externs are given the choice of three training tracks at the Lourie Center. Please indicate your track preference in your application.

Track 1- Therapeutic Nursery Program

- Full time placement in Therapeutic Nursery Classroom
- Individual supervision

Track 2- Parent Child Clinical Services

- In this track, psychology externs carry a caseload of 3-5 cases in the Parent-Child Clinical Services Program
- Opportunities to participate in a forensic evaluation team using attachment theory and methodology in consultation with courts and social services in permanency planning for children may be available (Wednesday mornings)
- Individual supervision

Track 3- Parent Child Clinical Services and Psychological Testing

- In this track, psychology externs carry a caseload of 3-4 cases in the Parent-Child Clinical Services Program
- Students in this track will likely complete three testing assessments over the course of the extern year
- Individual supervision and psychological testing supervision

Time and Scheduling Expectations:

A minimum commitment of 16 hours per week from September through May of the calendar year is expected (or as scheduled by the student's academic program). Ideally, students would be able to be at the Lourie Center three days per week. Students are required to join parent-child clinical services program mandatory meetings mid-day on most Wednesdays including staff meetings and monthly trainings. TNP team meets are held Wednesday afternoons. Trainee seminar is held every Thursday morning from 10:30am-11:45am.

The center is open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday thru Thursday, and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Fridays. Students who are seeing clients in the parent-child clinical services program are expected to commit to one late evening (between 6-8pm) per week. Students who are in the Therapeutic Nursery Program may be expected to arrive early to participate in team meetings before children arrive for the day. The TNP school day is from 8am-3pm with a half-day on some Wednesdays.

Application Process:

The Lourie Center abides by the Greater Washington Clinical Psychology Programs Council Externship Guidelines and will offer interviews on a rolling basis. The application process is currently open and will close **at 5pm on Thursday, January 29, 2026**. Applications must include a letter of intent, CV, minimum two written references and examples of writing, (e.g., test reports, evaluations etc.) to be considered. Questions and application materials can be directed to Julia Wessel, LCSW-C at clinic@louriecenter.org and 301-761-2754. Applicants who are selected for an interview will be required to complete an online application through Adventist HealthCare and complete a phone screening with a recruiter prior to the interview.

Onboarding Requirements:

Students accepted for an externship at the Lourie Center are required to follow all Adventist HealthCare onboarding requirements. This includes a background check, in person medical appointment at Adventist HealthCare Occupational Health approximately one month prior to start date, drug screening, and completion of Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification from the American Heart Association (which can be completed through Adventist HealthCare before start date of externship). Students placed in the Therapeutic Nursery Program will have additional paperwork and health screening requirements to complete for the Maryland Office of Child Care prior to their start date. Additional information is below:

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination

Adventist HealthCare strongly recommends all applicants to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 before commencing employment. Applicants may be required to furnish proof of vaccination. Annual Flu Vaccination is required and is offered on site in the Fall.

Tobacco and Drug Statement

Tobacco use is a well-recognized preventable cause of death in the United States and an important public health issue. In order to promote and maintain a healthy work environment, Adventist HealthCare will not hire applicants who either state that they are nicotine users or who test positive for nicotine and drug use.

While some jurisdictions, including Maryland, permit the use of marijuana for medical purposes, marijuana continues to be classified as an illegal drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. As a result, medical marijuana use will not be accepted as a valid explanation for a positive drug test result. Adventist HealthCare will withdraw offers of employment to applicants who test positive for Cotinine (nicotine) and marijuana. Those testing positive are given the opportunity to re-apply in 90 days, if they can truthfully attest that they have not used any nicotine products in the past ninety (90) days and successfully pass follow-up testing. ("Nicotine products" include, but are not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping products, hookah, and nicotine replacement products (e.g., nicotine gum, nicotine patches, nicotine lozenges, etc.).