

Psychology Internship Directors



Dr. Jeffrey Burl, MD
Internship Director

After completing his graduate studies at Drexel University, Dr. Burl obtained doctoral clinical training at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and a postdoctoral fellowship at Connecticut Valley Hospital. Dr. Burl subsequently assumed staff psychologist positions at Connecticut Valley Hospital and then Bridgewater State Hospital, where he served as a supervisor in the hospital's psychology practicum program.

Dr. Burl joined UMass Chan in 2017 and rose from an internship supervisor to Co-Assistant Director, and this August to Director of the Doctoral Internship.



Dr. Heidi Putney, Ph.D
Co-Assistant Director, Psychology Internship

Dr. Putney is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Chan (UMass Chan) Medical School where she serves as a full-time forensic evaluator as well as the Co-Assistant Director of the school's APA-accredited clinical psychology internship.

She earned her doctorate from Central Michigan University and has undergone training at the National Institute of Justice in Washington, D.C., at Western State Hospital in Washington State, and as a postdoctoral resident in forensic psychology at UMass Chan Medical School.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Putney teaches and facilitates didactics for both psychology interns and residents. Her primary roles are facilitating the Professional Development Seminar Series as well as the Action-Learning Social Justice Advocacy Project for the internship.

Her research interests include public policy reform, program development and evaluation, professional development in psychologists, training in social justice advocacy, and issues related to forensic psychology.



Dr. Meredith Ronan, PsyD
Co-Assistant Director, Internship Program

Dr. Ronan is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Chan (UMass Chan) Medical School (since 2016) and she serves as a full-time clinical psychologist at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital (WRCH) as well as the Co-Assistant Director of the school's APA-accredited clinical psychology internship. She previously was Director of Postdoctoral Clinical Psychology Program in Positive Behavior Interventions and Support at WRCH in 2016-2019.

She did her Predoctoral Training at UMass Chan Medical School/Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital, Worcester, MA from 2014-2015 and was also a Psychology Intern there, which is an American Psychological Association Accredited Internship.

She also did her Postdoctoral Training at UMass Chan Medical School/Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital, Worcester, MA from 2015-2016 and was a Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Severe Mental Illness with a specialization in Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Intervention. She has additional experience with individual behaviorally focused psychotherapy, conducting risk assessments, and admission assessments as consistent with other duties. She provides supervision of advanced doctoral students who are providing PBS interventions.



Dr. Danielle Rynczak, JD, PsyD, ABPP
Director, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Dr. Rynczak is an attorney, board certified forensic psychologist, and an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School where she serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging for the psychology internship program and as the Director of Legal Education and Training for the Law and Psychiatry program. She also holds a teaching appointment at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Rynczak started her career as the attorney for the Florida Boxing Commission where she drafted regulations for mixed martial arts. She obtained her master's degree in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Rynczak completed her internship at Atascadero State Hospital and a forensic psychology fellowship at the University of Missouri Medical School/Center for Behavioral Medicine.

She has been a board-certified forensic psychologist since 2016 and is recognized as both a specialist by the American Board of Professional Psychology and a diplomate in forensic psychology by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology. Her clinical and research interests include culturally responsive forensic evaluations, inclusive teaching and mentoring practices, and anti-racism.