



Pediatric Psychology Externship Training Program 2025-2026

Inova Peterson Life with Cancer (LWC), a program of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Northern Virginia, supports children and adolescents impacted by cancer and their families. Specifically, LWC's Pediatric Program provides evidence-based services to children and adolescents with cancer, their parents, caregivers, and siblings; survivors of childhood cancer; children and adolescents who have a family member with cancer; and youth bereaved by cancer. We are pleased to offer a psychology externship placement for the 2025 – 2026 academic year! This externship is ideally suited for an advanced extern seeking comprehensive training in pediatric psychology and interested in working with children with cancer and their families in inpatient and outpatient treatment settings.

Training Opportunities:

Pediatric Psychology Inpatient Services at Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital:

Externs will provide evidence-based pediatric psychology services to children, adolescents and young adults with cancer while hospitalized at Inova Children's. Common training activities include:

- 1) Routine New Diagnosis Coping Assessments
- 2) Pediatric Psychology Consults and follow-up treatment for ongoing coping/adjustment concerns, depression, anxiety, nonpharmacological pain management, nonadherence to medical treatment, behavioral challenges, and grief/loss
- 3) Individual and family therapy using brief cognitive behavioral and family systems interventions
- 4) Parent guidance/Psychoeducation
- 5) Ongoing consultation/liaison with medical and psychosocial oncology treatment teams (e.g., physicians, nurses, case manager, child life specialist, music therapist, and rehab therapists)
- 6) Participation in medical rounds and psychosocial oncology rounds

Pediatric Psychology Outpatient Services at Life with Cancer's Family Center:

Externs will participate in a broad range of outpatient interventions based on level of interest and experience:

- 1) Individual therapy, emphasizing cognitive behavioral approaches, for the following populations:
 - a. children, adolescents and young adults with cancer
 - b. survivors of childhood cancer
 - c. children and adolescents who have a family member with cancer
 - d. bereaved children and adults
- 2) Parent Consultations/Psychoeducation
- 3) Psychoeducational and skills groups for children, adolescents and/or parents
- 4) Program Development, Assessment, and Quality Improvement

Supervision:

Externs will receive at least two hours of face-to-face, individual supervision per week from primary supervisors Amanda L. Thompson, PhD and Shari Langer, PsyD



Didactics:

Weekly psychosocial oncology rounds, Pediatric Team Journal Club/Case Discussion

Number of Positions Available: 1-2 externs will be selected

Qualifications:

- Formal coursework in child development and prior child/adolescent therapy experience is required.
- Prior experience in a hospital setting or working with medically ill children is preferred, but not required.

This externship is best suited for a fourth year predoctoral student. However, advanced third year students with child/adolescent therapy experience will also be considered.

Locations: Life with Cancer Family Center
8411 Pennell Street
Fairfax, VA 22031

Inova L.J. Murphy Children's Hospital
3300 Gallows Road
Falls Church, VA 22042

Time Commitment: 16 hours over 2 days per week. Start and end date is negotiable, but at a minimum must include September through May. Tuesdays and Thursdays are preferred.

Application Procedure:

- Please email a letter of interest, CV, and two letters of recommendation to Shari Langer, PsyD at Shari.Langer@inova.org by 02/03/2025.
- Selected applicants will be scheduled for interviews in February and/or early March.

**Should you require additional information about this externship program, please contact Dr. Langer at Shari.Langer@inova.org or (703) 776-2738.