

Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (2025-2026)

The Pediatric Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cook Children's Medical Center is a two-year, full-time advanced training program designed to prepare psychologists for board certification in clinical neuropsychology with a specialization in pediatrics. The fellowship adheres to the Houston Conference guidelines and emphasizes a scientist-practitioner model in a rich, multidisciplinary medical setting. Cook Children's is proud to be an APPIC member.

Fellows are based within the Behavioral Health/Psychology Department at Cook Children's Medical Center, a nationally ranked, freestanding children's hospital located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Cook Children's offers comprehensive pediatric services, including dedicated departments for neurology, oncology, cardiology, neurosurgery, genetics, psychiatry, developmental pediatrics, and rehabilitation medicine. Fellows receive referrals from these departments through collaborative, integrated care teams, gaining exposure to a wide range of complex neurological, psychiatric, and developmental disorders in outpatient settings.

Fellows evaluate and support a diverse pediatric population ranging from infancy through young adulthood (ages 0–21). Patients are referred from across North Texas and surrounding states, often presenting with:

- Epilepsy and seizure disorders (pre- and post-surgical evaluations)
- Brain tumors and cancer-related neurocognitive sequelae
- Traumatic and acquired brain injuries
- Congenital and genetic syndromes (e.g., 22q11.2 deletion, Down syndrome)
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (ADHD, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorders)
- Prematurity and neonatal complications
- Medical complexities requiring interdisciplinary follow-up (cardiology, hematology, etc.)
- Psychiatric comorbidities

Competencies and training objectives

Fellows develop advanced competencies in the areas of neuropsychological assessment, differential diagnosis, communication, ethics, cultural competence, and interdisciplinary consultation. Training objectives include mastery of pediatric-specific testing, integration of medical and educational data, and readiness for ABPP board certification in Clinical Neuropsychology. A brief list of training activities include:

- Comprehensive outpatient psychological and neuropsychological assessments weekly.
- Review and interpret medical records, imaging reports, and school documents as part of case formulation.
- Provide feedback sessions to families, incorporating strengths-based and culturally responsive communication.
- Write comprehensive integrated psychological and neuropsychological reports with tailored recommendations for home, school, and medical providers.
- Shadow pediatric neurologists during clinical appointments to understand diagnostic processes, treatment planning, and physician-patient interactions.
- Attend weekly neuroradiology conferences, learning to incorporate neuroanatomy knowledge and interpret MRI/CT results.
- Discuss in individual and group supervision ethical dilemmas and complex clinical cases.
- Receive 2+ hours of weekly individual supervision from licensed pediatric psychological and neuropsychologists.
- Attend group supervision and case formulation meetings with fellow trainees and faculty.
- Integrate cultural considerations in case conceptualization and report writing.
- Engage in seminars and reflection activities on health disparities and culturally responsive care.

Training resources

Didactic Curriculum & Seminars

Fellows attend a structured series of seminars and conferences that support core and specialty competencies. A detailed schedule will be provided for the academic year in the fellowship handbook. Curriculum and training rotations include:

- Pediatric Neuropsychology Seminars
- Ethics and Professional Practice Workshops
- Diversity and Cultural Competence Seminars
- Board Preparation Study Group
- Pediatric Grand Rounds and Neuroradiology Conferences

- Psychiatric and Psychology Division Case Conferences

Training sites

Cook Children's Denton Behavioral Health Clinic

Located in the growing Denton community, this outpatient behavioral health clinic offers comprehensive pediatric psychology and neuropsychology services in a multidisciplinary team environment. Fellows at this site provide comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations for children and adolescents with a wide range of conditions including ADHD, learning disorders, autism spectrum disorder, concussions and traumatic brain injury, cancer, epilepsy and other seizure disorders, genetic anomalies and complex medical and/or psychiatric presentations. They also engage in interdisciplinary case collaboration with neurology, neurosurgery, oncology, endocrinology, genetics, psychiatry, developmental pediatrics, and on-site therapy providers.

Cook Children's Prosper Specialty Center

The Prosper Specialty Center is a state-of-the-art outpatient facility located in the rapidly expanding northern region of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. This site hosts multiple pediatric specialties including neurology, neurosurgery, sports medicine, pulmonology, bariatric surgery, gastroenterology, hematology and oncology, cardiology, psychiatry, and psychology. Pediatric neuropsychology fellows at Prosper conduct targeted neuropsychological assessments, with strong integration with the neurology and other specialty teams.

Meet our training director

Lisa Elliott, PhD holds a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Texas and completed her predoctoral internship in neuropsychology at the Dallas VA Medical Center, where she received intensive training in adult and geriatric neuropsychological assessment, with a pediatric rotation in neuropsychology at Cook Children's Medical Center. She went on to complete her postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at Cook Children's Medical Center, where she has remained a dedicated faculty member and mentor. With over 25 years of experience, she has served as the Lead Training Director for both clinical psychological and neuropsychology postdoctoral fellows with an emphasis in psychological and neuropsychological assessment, as well as for predoctoral practicum students, shaping the next generation of pediatric psychologists and neuropsychologists. Her background includes formal leadership training, expertise in delivering professional presentations at regional and national conferences, and extensive experience as a supervisor and manager to practicing psychologists and neuropsychologists, postdoctoral fellows, and practicum students. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to excellence in training, clinical care, and the advancement of pediatric neuropsychology as a specialty.

Compensation and benefits

Fellows receive a competitive salary of approximately \$65,000 annually, which is consistent with regional standards for postdoctoral training. The position includes comprehensive health care benefits, paid time off, and designated continuing education or conference attendance days.

Methods of evaluation

The Pediatric Neuropsychology Fellowship at Cook Children's Medical Center utilizes a competency-based evaluation framework to assess each fellow's progress toward independent practice in pediatric neuropsychology. Evaluation methods are aligned with profession-wide and specialty-specific competencies as outlined by APA and the Houston Conference guidelines.

Performance evaluation

Fellows receive written performance evaluations at least twice annually. These evaluations guide training plans and may inform due process steps if needed. A formal evaluation form, with MLAs for completion of fellowship, will be provided in the fellowship manual at the start of fellowship.

Key components include:

- **Formal Evaluations:** Fellows receive in-person evaluations at mid-year and year-end using a structured competency rating form. These evaluations assess clinical skills, ethical practice, professionalism, communication, cultural competence, and neuropsychological knowledge and judgment.
- **Evaluator Input:** Feedback is gathered from the fellow's primary supervisor and any additional supervising psychologists or medical collaborators involved in the fellow's training.
- **Self-Evaluation:** Fellows complete a parallel self-assessment prior to each formal review to encourage reflection on clinical strengths, areas for growth, and goal alignment.
- **Ongoing Feedback:** In addition to formal evaluations, fellows receive regular informal feedback through weekly supervision sessions, case reviews, and written feedback on documentation.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Fellows must demonstrate satisfactory performance across all domains to remain in good standing. Individualized remediation plans may be implemented if performance concerns arise.

Due process policy

The fellowship maintains a formal Due Process Procedure to ensure fairness and transparency if performance concerns arise.

- **Notice** — Fellows receive written notification describing specific concerns and expected improvements.
- **Opportunity to Respond** — Fellows have a meeting (hearing) with the Training Director and

- supervising faculty to review concerns and submit additional information or clarification.
- Remediation Plan — A written plan is developed with clear objectives, resources, and timeline for improvement (typically 30–90 days).
- Appeal — If a fellow disagrees with an action, they may submit a written appeal to the Director of Psychology (or designee) within 10 business days. A further appeal can be made to the Cook Children’s Behavioral Health Medical Director, whose decision is final.

Fellows will receive these procedures at the start of fellowship and can access them anytime.

Grievance policy

Grievance procedures: The program is committed to providing a fair, transparent, and supportive training environment. In the event of a performance concern or grievance, the following due process procedures are in place:

Performance concerns: If a supervisor identifies a significant concern about a fellow’s performance, the following steps are taken:

- The concern is discussed with the fellow directly and documented.
- A remediation plan may be developed in collaboration with the fellow, outlining specific goals, timeframes, and supervisory supports.
- Progress is reviewed at defined intervals; failure to improve may result in formal disciplinary action or dismissal, in consultation with institutional leadership.

Fellow-initiated grievances: Fellows who wish to raise a grievance (e.g., concerns about supervision, evaluation, discrimination, or working conditions) may do so without fear of retaliation.

Steps include:

- Step 1: Discuss the issue with the involved party, if comfortable.
- Step 2: If unresolved, submit a written grievance to the Training Director, who will facilitate a resolution process within 10 business days.
- Step 3: If still unresolved, the fellow may appeal to the Director of Behavioral Health or designated institutional review committee, whose decision is final.

All grievances and disciplinary matters are handled in a manner that preserves the fellow’s confidentiality, dignity, and right to due process per Cook Children’s policy.

More information

This postdoctoral fellowship program in Pediatric Neuropsychology fulfills the supervised experience requirements for licensure as a psychologist in the state of Texas. Fellows receive a minimum of two hours

of individual, face-to-face supervision per week from licensed psychologists who meet the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists' criteria for supervisory status. Supervision is provided in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code and includes oversight of all clinical activities, ethical decision-making, and professional development. The program structure ensures that fellows gain the required postdoctoral hours in a health service psychology setting, with opportunities to accrue supervised experience in assessment, consultation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, graduates will have met the postdoctoral supervision requirements necessary to apply for licensure in Texas and are well prepared for licensure in most other states.

Application requirements

To be considered for the fellowship:

Eligibility requirements

- Completion of a doctoral degree (PhD or PsyD) in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, or School Psychology from an APA- or CPA-accredited program.
- Completion of a predoctoral internship, preferred APA/CPA-accredited, with major emphasis in clinical child or pediatric psychology and/or neuropsychology.
- Strong background in psychological and neuropsychological assessment of children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Training that aligns with the Houston Conference Guidelines for specialty training in clinical neuropsychology is strongly preferred.
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is required.
- Eligible for temporary licensure as a psychological associate in the state of Texas.

Required application materials

1. Cover Letter: Describe your interest in pediatric neuropsychology and the specific goals you hope to achieve during fellowship.
2. Curriculum Vitae: Include education, clinical experiences, research, presentations, and any relevant certifications
3. Doctoral Transcript: Official or unofficial transcript from your graduate program.
4. Three Letters of Recommendation: Must be from a licensed psychologist familiar with your clinical skills and training.
5. Sample Neuropsychological Report: De-identified, recent, and representative of your independent clinical work with a pediatric population.

For questions about the program or application process, please contact the training director, Dr. Lisa Elliott at: Lisa.Elliott@cookchildrens.org