



RICE HUMANITIES
Medical Humanities

Health, Humanism, and Society Scholars – Project Submission Form

Project Title: **Mental Health Research and Education**

Project Description:

The Veterans Administration (VA) has a strong commitment to improving Veterans' mental health while supporting mental health clinicians. The South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (SC MIRECC) focuses on promoting equity in engagement, access, and quality of mental health care for Veterans facing barriers to care, especially rural and underserved Veterans. The SC MIRECC's mission works synergistically with the VA's commitment to improve mental health care by developing and disseminating evidence based educational material, tools and interventions that focus on improving mental health care.

This research opportunity is specifically with the education core of the SC MIRECC. Examples of recent HHASS projects include: creation of the [Veterans Wellness Guide](#) and development of a cultural humility geriatric education module.. The interprofessional education team has members from: Psychiatry and Social Health Psychology. The student would be involved in the development of educational materials along with their dissemination and evaluation. There are ample opportunities for students to write mentored manuscripts and poster presentations. Students can learn more about the educational efforts of the SC MIRECC by visiting the site, <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn16/education.asp>

Institution and Location: Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQEST)
Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical

Project timeframe: (1 or 2 semesters): 2 semesters

Prerequisite training: There are no formal prerequisites; this project is open to every Rice student beyond their first year of studies. Preference will be given to students who have an interest in mental health, education, evaluation, and dissemination, are team and detail oriented, and write well. Health science, education, psychology, and communication students are especially encouraged to apply.

Knowledge and skills student can expect to gain: This project presents an opportunity to advance the student's skills with creation of educational materials, dissemination, evaluation, and scholarly writing. Students will also be exposed to the current mental health research.



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Expectations of student (Rice University and host requirements are listed):

- The student must devote 8 hours per week to the project (consistent with a 3-credit course) and will develop a timeline of activities in collaboration with supervisor(s). The student will meet at least monthly with the faculty supervisor(s) to evaluate progress.
- The student will develop a timetable of activities in collaboration with Dr. Asghar-Ali or Dr. Bryan.
- The student will meet with Dr. Asghar-Ali or Dr. Bryan for a ½ hour biweekly meeting to evaluate progress.

Expectations of PIs/project sponsors:

- The projects should be designed with the academic rigor of Rice University in mind, and abide by the U.S. Department of Labor's Fair Labor Standards Act for unpaid internships. Mid-semester and final supervisor evaluations will be submitted to evaluate student's professional progress. Complete details found here: [Project Sponsor Eligibility](#).