

CASSI Post-Doctoral Fellow Rotation Schedule

Psychological assessments – 3-4 evaluations per month (6 months in duration)/2 evaluations per month (6 months in duration)

In this rotation, psychological evaluations utilize a developmental, strengths-based approach to evaluate cognitive functioning, attention and memory, adaptive skills, social-emotional functioning, and behavioral functioning in preschool - school-age children. This rotation includes opportunities to apply behavioral management strategies in the context of standardized psychological assessment procedures. Common assessment questions include determining level of developmental functioning/presence of intellectual disability, identifying school accommodations, and guiding treatment planning as well as differentiating autism from developmental delays, ADHD, mood/anxiety concerns, trauma, and behavioral disorders.

Transition team evaluations – 1 evaluation per month (6 months in duration)

Transition team evaluations focus on assessment of autistic individuals to clarify their cognitive functioning and to guide supports and services for adult life planning. Evaluations occur in the context of an interdisciplinary team that includes providers from neuropsychology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social work. Trainees assist in providing neuropsychological assessments to autistic adolescents and young adults transitioning to adulthood (ages 14-21) and collaborate with other team members to develop recommendations for the family. Common questions include clarifying current cognitive functioning and decision-making capacity, documenting eligibility for services, identifying college and work accommodations, and guiding treatment planning for additional concerns (e.g., anxiety, safety, etc.).

Diagnostic evaluations (School-age/Adolescents) – 4 evaluations per month (6 months in duration)

Diagnostic evaluations focus on evaluating the presence of autism as well as common co-occurring conditions including ADHD, anxiety, and behavioral concerns in children, ages 5-12, and adolescents, ages 13-18, who are verbally fluent. Evaluations with children 5-12 years include a diagnostic interview, onsite testing utilizing the ADOS-2, and a feedback session following the evaluation. Adolescent evaluations utilize an extended model that includes a diagnostic interview, ADOS-2 administration, and the administration of multiple rating scale measures to screen for a broad range of psychiatric conditions and to support diagnostic differentiation. Recommendations to support the successful transition to adulthood are also a focus of these evaluations.

Diagnostic evaluations (Young Children) – 4 evaluations per month (6 months in duration)

In this rotation, diagnostic evaluations focus on evaluating the presence of autism in young children through age 5 years. These evaluations focus on assessing the presence of autism as well as common co-occurring conditions including developmental delays, medical conditions (e.g., prematurity), and social-emotional considerations (e.g., trauma exposure, behavioral difficulties). These evaluations include an onsite diagnostic interview, testing utilizing the ADOS-2, and a separate feedback session following the evaluation. In addition to differential diagnosis, accurate ADOS module selection is highlighted as well as use of developmental screening tools to aid in module choice and diagnostic decision making. Recommendations often focus on initiating a treatment plan for young children as well as considerations during the transition to school-based services.

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Behavioral/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – 2-3 patients per week (12 months in duration)

Fellows receive training in two types of therapeutic intervention: 1) parent training utilizing the RUBI protocol for interfering behaviors in young autistic children and 2) child-directed cognitive-behavioral therapy for school-age and adolescent autistic children targeting common psychiatric conditions such as anxiety, mood dysregulation, and adjustment disorders. CBT training includes exposure to a range of empirically-based protocols, delivered utilizing neurodiversity-affirming strategies. Opportunities to explore other treatment models and protocols are also available based on the fellow's interest.

Group therapy – 1 group per week (12-14 weeks in duration)

Fellows co-facilitate a time-limited treatment group with a licensed provider focused on social skill development or specific mental health concerns (i.e., anxiety, executive functioning). Fellows have the opportunity to select their preferred group treatment experience and to elect to co-facilitate additional group therapy models as their schedules allow.