The Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at KUSM-W has a long history of producing psychiatrists and psychologists who serve the city of Wichita, state of Kansas and beyond. Founded in 1973, the department has a psychiatry residency program with a total complement of 24 residents each year and psychology training programs in child and adolescent psychology and clinical neuropsychology, with a total of five full-time trainees per year.

The psychiatry residency program has graduated more than 200 psychiatrists since its inception, roughly half of whom have chosen to practice in Kansas, helping KUSM-W fulfill its mission of producing doctors for Kansas. Of all the program graduates, the majority enter employed positions working for hospitals, public mental health programs, community mental health centers or other government-run mental health facilities. The second most common career path is private practice, followed by academic medicine. A number of KUSM-W psychiatry residents enter competitive fellowships each year, with child and adolescent psychiatry being the most popular fellowship choice.

It is difficult to measure the exact number of psychiatrists practicing in the State of Kansas. We know there are 207-member psychiatrists from Kansas in the American Psychiatric Association. There are slightly more non-member psychiatrists, who are more difficult to track. Based on these numbers, it’s a reasonable estimate the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program has produced 40-50 percent of the state’s psychiatrists and nearly 100 percent of those practicing in rural areas. For example, Alisha Coulson and Veronica Amey, who graduated from the program, represent two-thirds of the psychiatrists practicing in Salina, Kansas. The remaining third, George Jerkovich, completed a significant portion of his final year of residency with the Wichita program.

The psychology training program is affiliated with the Wichita Collaborative Psychology Internship Program (WCPIP), which is the oldest psychology training consortium in the U.S., founded in 1953. Interns from our neuropsychology program have gone on to competitive two-year neuropsychology fellowships, including those at the University of Florida, Medical College of Wisconsin and McLean Hospital at Harvard University. Graduates from our child psychology internship go on to pediatric psychology fellowships at children’s hospitals across the nation, and others enter clinical practice at community mental health agencies, serving children and families. Our internship graduates are currently practicing across the country, with three practicing as faculty at KUSM-W.

In 2018, our neuropsychology fellowship achieved membership in the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), which recognizes high-quality fellowship programs that promote achievement of board-certification in clinical neuropsychology. Of our recent fellowship graduates, three are currently neuropsychology faculty at KUSM-W. Our other graduates practice as clinical neuropsychologists at VA hospitals, academic medical centers, research institutes and in private practice across the nation. More than half of our graduates have achieved board certification or are currently in the process.