

Psychometrician
Baylor College of Medicine/
VA Health Services Research & Development Center of Excellence
Houston, TX

The Houston VA Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence (Houston HSR&D CoE) and the Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) are seeking a Full Time Psychometrician. This position is at the Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level.

Overview:

Health services research examines the organization, delivery and financing of health care, from the perspective of patients, caregivers, providers, and managers to improve the quality and efficiency of care, including issues of patient safety and equity. Health services research is also concerned with system-level outcomes such as assessments of cost and access, as well as effective ways to translate clinical knowledge into practice. The underlying objective of health services research is to understand and improve clinical decision-making and care, inform patients, evaluate change in the health care system, and inform policymaking. Our Center's theme and mission is dedicated to these objectives. Over the last 20 years, the Center has grown into a research powerhouse; continuing its mission of impacting health and health care by conducting and translating outstanding research and by developing influential leaders in health policy, outcomes, quality, access, utilization, and costs. The Center consists of about 190 faculty and staff who are housed in 35,000 square feet of contiguous space in the John P. McGovern Campus building across the street from the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC) and a half mile from the BCM main campus, with a budget of \$11.3 million. The BCM Section of Health Services Research and the VA Health Service Research and Development Center of Excellence are fully integrated in the Center. Faculty include 42 scientists, composed of clinician-scientists and PhD social and quantitative scientists. Clinician scientists are general internists, geriatricians, gastroenterologists, a cardiologist, infectious diseases specialists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, clinical psychologists, and surgeons. PhD scientists in the center include statisticians, epidemiologists, an econometrician and a social psychologist. A summary of all activities is available on our website: <http://www.houston.hsr.d.research.va.gov/>.

Job Description:

Assistant/associate professor based on qualifications: entry-level psychometrician/health services researcher though mid-career candidates will be considered. The incumbent in this position will be expected to serve as a co-investigator on existing research studies, and to develop an independent research agenda in the application of measurement theory to health services research. The psychometrician will provide consultation on measurement issues, contribute to the writing of data analysis plans, and consult with investigators and other quantitative experts on database design and data analysis. .

For an associate professor position, evidence of research productivity, success in obtaining external grant funding, versatility in measurement expertise, skill in consulting on measurement issues, and the ability to work with interdisciplinary research teams are all essential.

Required Qualifications:

- U. S. CITIZENSHIP
- Ph.D. in Psychological or Educational Measurement, Psychometrics, or related field with an emphasis on quantitative analysis or psychometrics
- Advanced training in psychometric research and statistics including item response theory factor analysis, multidimensional scaling, data clustering, structural equation modeling, and path analysis.
- Ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary team
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills in both written and spoken English
- Excellent computer programming skills, especially with SAS programming

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with multi-level modeling programs, hierarchical linear models, and sampling methods.
- Candidates whose research agenda, experience and/or training includes a concentration in health services research, particularly health disparities, access to care, policy, or health behavior are particularly encouraged to apply.

How to apply:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicants should provide a cover letter describing interests and qualifications, current curriculum vitae, and three (3) letters of reference to:

David Latini, PhD, Chief, Design and Analysis Program, HSR&D CoE
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