



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

Health Service Psychology Program
Practicum Handbook

Revised 04/01/2018

Overview of Practicum Experiences

The Health Service Psychology program provides a minimum of three organized, sequential, supervised, professional training experiences to students as a component of preparing students for a pre-doctoral internship in health service psychology. Within these practica, faculty and supervisors train and evaluate students to ensure appropriate competency development. Evaluation includes direct observations, case conceptualizations, and formal ratings on the Practicum, Internship, Supervision Competency Evaluation (PISCE).

Internal Practicum (PSYC 7038). Students initially complete an integrated, internal practicum during their first year in the doctoral program (during the Spring and Summer semesters). Within the first year practicum, students provide psychological services through the University of Houston-Clear Lake's Psychological Services Clinic. This course is co-taught by two faculty in the Health Service Psychology program (one with expertise in Clinical Psychology and one with expertise in School Psychology). This initial internal practicum is designed to provide an integrated, combined framework. Students are assigned a variety of cases (e.g., assessment, consultation, and therapy) under the individual supervision of one of the instructors. Concurrently, students engage in case conceptualizations in a group setting, receiving feedback from both faculty members to provide viewpoints from both specialty areas in order to learn how to integrate these perspectives in providing high quality, competent care to their clients. Supervising faculty evaluate students through direct observation (see Student Direct Observation Evaluation), review of videotapes, and review of progress notes/evaluation reports. Students currently track all practicum hours (required for all practicum experiences) through an online system (Time2Track) that records the hours spent in various activities along with important client demographic characteristics (i.e., age range, disability status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.). Faculty regularly review data from Time2Track to ensure that students obtain diverse experiences with a variety of clients and students are required to obtain supervisor approval for all logged hours. In addition, student competencies and skill development are formally evaluated using the PISCE. Course Instructors/Supervisors complete these evaluations for each student.

External Practicum (PSYC 7039). Upon successful completion of the PSYC 7038, which requires demonstration of preliminary competencies in assessment, and treatment/intervention, students are eligible to begin an external practicum during the second year of the program. Students meet with the program's practicum coordinator(s) to discuss available program-approved sites, the student's interests and prior experiences, and to review the student's most recent PISCEs evaluations in order to identify strengths or needs that might be relevant to the practicum placement. The student, the student's faculty advisor, and the program's practicum coordinator discuss the placement options with particular attention to placements that maximize opportunities for further develop and skill/competency refinement. Ultimately, placement decisions are based on each student's specific clinical interests and unique skill strengths and needs.

At the beginning of the practicum experience, site supervisors complete a Practicum Letter of Agreement (PLA; see sample PLA). This agreement specifies the competencies the student is expected to develop (based on identified program competencies), the type and frequency of services the student is expected to provide, and other requirements specified by the site (e.g., completion of an orientation or preparatory training, vaccinations if required, background checks). The program's practicum coordinator reviews and must approve all PLAs. Site supervisors are responsible for providing access to cases and direct clinical supervision to students during their external practicum placement. In addition to their external practicum caseload, students must maintain a minimal caseload (2-3 clients) within the

UHCL Psychological Services Clinic under the supervision of faculty within the Health Service Psychology program. Overall, students must complete a minimum of 500 clock hours of practicum (direct and indirect hours) during their 2nd year practicum experience. Field-based supervisors are required to conduct a minimum of one direct observation for each semester a student completes a practicum experience. Field-supervisors are provided a copy of the SDOE used by faculty at UHCL, but may develop their own direct observation. Student competencies are evaluated by their supervisors using the PISCES.

Clinical Practice, Consultation, and Supervision (PSYC 7936). The third required practicum placement focuses on learning and developing competencies related to supervision within clinical practices. During this practicum course, students receive training in supervision models and they provide supervision to masters and specialist level students within the UHCL Psychological Services Clinic. PsyD faculty supervise each PsyD student's supervision of masters and specialist level students.

As noted in the Student Handbook, all students must have a minimum of 600 direct client contact hours prior to applying for internship. By the time the student applies for internship, he or she will have to have received satisfactory ratings of competence from numerous supervisors. All supervisors (both university-based supervisor and field supervisors) will use the PISCE to rate the student's competency development. The PISCE contains behavioral anchors that allow the supervisors to know the expectation of skill development in each identified competency.

Process to Obtain an External Practicum

The UHCL Health Service Psychology program is committed to providing high-quality practicum experiences to students. In doing so, the faculty members seek to match students to sites that develop and enhance the goals and competencies outlined by the program. The following outlines the typical process to obtain an external practicum:

1. The practicum coordinator provides students a list of potential practicum sites within the Houston/Galveston metropolitan area. Health Service Psychology faculty vet the sites included on this list to ensure sites are meet the following standards:
 - a. Appropriately credentialed field-based supervisor (doctoral level, licensed psychologist)
 - b. A commitment to training students that aligns with the aims of the program (goals and competencies)
 - c. Allows students to work with diverse individuals, and
 - d. Conducts direct observations and evaluations (e.g., PICSEs) as outlined by the program.
2. Each external practicum site must complete an Affiliation Agreement with the University of Houston-Clear Lake prior to the student beginning a placement.
3. The faculty member(s) identified as practicum coordinator(s) provides students with the list of potential sites the semester prior to their expected enrollment in an external practicum course. Students then rank order their top choices (in collaboration with their advisor and university practicum supervisors). Faculty will approve the choices consistent with the students training needs.
4. If a student wishes to obtain a practicum at a site not listed or approved, the student should contact the university practicum supervisor(s) and submit the site name, address and phone number, site supervisor name (with credentials), and primary role of psychologists at the site. The faculty will then review the information and determine if the site aligns with the program's expectations for an external practicum placement.

5. Students contact and apply to external practicum sites once faculty review and approve their preferred sites.
6. Students then interview (as necessary) at the approved site(s).
7. Once a site has offered a practicum experience, students should inform their advisor and the university-based supervisors.
8. The university-based supervisors must ensure that a current Affiliation Agreement is in place and secure one if needed.
9. Prior to the start of the practicum, the university-based supervisor will meet with the student and field-based supervisor to review the requirements of the practicum.
10. By the date specified in the syllabus, all students should submit a Practicum Letter of Agreement that outlines the duties and expectations of the site.

Current Potential External Practicum Sites

The following list contains sites that students may consider for an external placement. *PLEASE NOTE, this list does not guarantee an opportunity, as sites may change in the composition of staff, commitment to training, or other variables. Students should consult with their mentor and practicum coordinator(s) to determine appropriate sites.*

| Name of Site* | Type of Setting | Primary Types of Clients | Nature of Training Experiences |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| UHCL Counseling Center (Clear Lake) | University Counseling Center | Adult | Consultation, Intervention |
| UT – Harris County Psychiatric Center (Houston) | Community Mental Health Center | Children, Adolescents, Adults | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| BlueBird Clinic (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Children, Adolescents | Assessment |
| Teen Health Center (Galveston) | Community Mental Health Center | Children, Adolescents | Intervention, Consultation |
| Galena Park ISD (Houston) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| Alief ISD (Houston) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Cypress) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |

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| Katy ISD (Katy) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| UTHealth Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Research |
| UTHealth PATH Program | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| Shriners Hospital Galveston (Galveston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents | Intervention, Consultation, Research |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Renal Department (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Children, Adolescents | Consultation, Intervention, Research |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Behavioral Medicine (Greenspoint) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Primary Care (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Pediatric Health (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Pediatric Health (The Woodlands) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Trauma & Grief (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention, Research |
| Harris County Juvenile Probation (Houston) | Correctional Facility | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation |
| Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare Services (Conroe) | Community Mental Health Center | Children, Adolescents, Adults | Assessment, Intervention, Consultation |
| Texas Children's Hospital: Adolescent Medicine (Houston) | Hospital/ Medical Center | Adolescents | Consultation, Assessment, Intervention |
| Federal Bureau of Prisons (Houston) | Correctional Facility | Adults | Assessment, Intervention, Consultation |

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| Houston Fire Department (Houston) | Other | Adults | Intervention, Consultation |
| Krist Samaritan Center (Clear Lake) | Community Mental Health Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Assessment, Intervention, Consultation |
| The Harris Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health (Houston) | Community Mental Health Center | Infants, Children, Adolescents, Adults | Assessment, Intervention, Consultation (Tracks in Jail, Assessment, Autism, and IDD) |
| The Monarch Institute/Therapeutic School Program (Houston) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Intervention, Consultation |
| Pasadena ISD (Pasadena) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| Sheldon ISD (Houston) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |
| Katy ISD (Katy) | School District or System | Children, Adolescents | Assessment, Consultation, Intervention |

*Students should expect this list to change, and should consult with their advisor and university-based supervisor regarding potential sites.

**All sites are considered available, but should be verified for the semester in which a student plans to apply.