



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Only interns enrolled in an APA or CPA accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology are considered for internship. It is expected that all applicants have passed their comprehensive exams and have reached the status of doctoral candidate prior to the ranking deadline. Applicants with less than a combination of 600 hours in intervention and assessment will not be considered. Exceptions can be made for candidates with relevant and outstanding work experience outside of practicum. The internship program expects incoming interns to have an adequate baseline of psychotherapy and assessment skills, as evidenced by meeting the minimum practicum hours (1,000) required to be interviewed. The internship program participates in the APPIC Match, and internship offers are made in compliance with APPIC guidelines.

The program utilizes the APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPPI). Those interested in applying to the internship must do so via the AAPPI, which can be accessed online at www.appic.org/A-API. All application materials must be submitted to the APPIC online application system. No materials will be accepted directly by the program. The deadline for the receipt of all application materials is December 1st of each year.

APA ACCREDITED INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mental Health Center of Florida Internship Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association and is a participating member of APPIC. Questions related to the program's accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 336-5979
Email: apaaccred@apa.org



PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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About Mental Health Center of Florida (MHC)

Mental Health Center of Florida is a private psychotherapy firm that conducts individual and group psychotherapy in skilled nursing (SNF) and assisted/independent living facilities (ALFs/ILFs), provides individual, couples, and family psychotherapy within the office and in-home to clients referred through ChildNet; performs patient evaluation and management for those patients requiring partial hospitalization; offers after-care counseling programs; completes psychological and neuropsychological assessments in the office, jails, and child/adolescent residential facilities; and provides in-service trainings to long-term care facilities. The MHC Florida mission is to provide compassionate, yet clinically sound, mental health services to our clients so that they may develop into the persons they wish to be. MHC Florida staff, consisting of licensed psychologists, service patients in multiple counties throughout the state of Florida.

Mental Health Center of Florida Pre-Doctoral Psychology Internship Program

OVERALL GOALS

Within the intern's Practitioner-Scholar training model, the primary training method is experiential, with the overarching goal of training and educating interns to competently practice professional psychology. Interns spend between 40 and 50 hours per week in training of which a minimum of 15 hours to a maximum of 30 hours of the intern's time is dedicated to direct clinical services. By pairing interns with qualified licensed supervisors who will promote professional, meaningful, firsthand experience and knowledge in the field of psychological services with an array of populations, interns will become competent in providing psychotherapy services independently. Interns will be able to provide compassionate practice with people of all ages, races, ethnicities, faiths, genders, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, and physical abilities with diagnoses ranging from anxiety and depression to schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Interns will gain experience and competence in a variety of psychological intervention models and will develop proficiency in the execution of a broad range of skills including clinical assessment and ongoing evaluation of treatment plans, psychotherapy, consultation with supervisors and multidisciplinary professionals, psychological testing, and program evaluation.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Mental Health Center of Florida offers a 2000-hour, 12-month internship that begins in early September each year. The Mental Health Center of Florida staff includes the Director of Training, Clinical Director, Chief Psychologist, Supervising Psychologists, and adjunct faculty who provide group supervision and didactics, and three administrative staff who are shared with MHC Florida.

All interns receive at least four hours of face-to-face supervision weekly, of which two are individual and two are in a group format, and are exposed to at least three licensed psychologists during the training year. All interns are provided with a minimum of two hours of formal instruction weekly (didactics) to supplement their "on-the-job" experiential and supervision training experiences. In addition, these seminars provide interns with an opportunity for weekly peer interaction. Intern attendance is mandatory to all weekly seminars.



EXPECTATIONS

Interns should expect to complete 2000 hours over 12 months by working approximately 40 hours per week. They will begin with a caseload of 15 to 20 clinical hours and finish the program with approximately 30 clinical hours. All interns are expected to complete a minimum of 2 psychological evaluations each month. Interns are expected to schedule and conduct sessions, perform assessments, develop treatment plans, and evaluate for results of treatment. Following an initial 3 day long orientation into the program, interns will shadow licensed psychologists as needed, as they treat patients in the office, nursing homes, and assisted/independent living settings. Interns will progress from shadowing to providing direct psychotherapy services and will have patients of their own.

Interns are evaluated and provided with feedback regarding performance on an ongoing basis through weekly individual supervision and through 90 day and semi-annual written performance evaluations. Supervisors are responsible for providing interns with written feedback regarding their clinical functioning and progress toward meeting training goals. All interns will be evaluated after 90 days and semi-annually thereafter. At the 90-day evaluation, each intern must receive a rating of "meets expectations" or "exceeds expectations" in all goal areas and objectives assessed. At the six (6)-month and 12-month marks, interns are evaluated on the nine (9) core competencies of the program including relationship with client/interpersonal skills, evidence based practice in intervention, evidence based practice in assessment, interprofessional collaboration/consultation skills, cultural and individual diversity, ethical and legal standards, supervision, professional values and attitudes, and research. For each of the competencies, any skill rated 1 ("far below expectations") or 2 ("below expectations") will be addressed in the narrative section and a Performance Improvement Plan will be generated. At the end of the training year, all interns who display full competency in all of the specified skill areas will be deemed ready to move on to post-doctoral level training.

Of equal importance are the interns' evaluations of our program. Interns will have an opportunity to formally evaluate the internship program at the 90-day, six (6)-month and 12-month marks.