

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL LEVEL INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES

(Approved by the Membership, May, 1998)

In the absence of special circumstances, an organized training program in School Psychology meeting these guidelines will also be considered as meeting the “Guidelines for Defining an Internship or Organized Training Program in Psychology” used by the National Register to identify an acceptable internship or organized training program, one of the several requirements for listing in The National Register of Health Services Providers in Psychology.

1. A School Psychology internship is an organized training program which, in contrast to supervised experience (e.g., practica) or on-the-job training, is designed to provide the intern with a planned, programmed sequence of training experience. The internship is the culminating training experience prior to the granting of the doctoral degree. It follows a programmed sequence of coursework, practica, and field experiences and occurs after the substantial completion of all coursework leading to the degree. The primary focus and purpose is assuring breadth and quality of training. The School Psychology internship is designed to meet the needs of the graduate students and should provide an extension of education and supervised training from the university program. The internship must include a range of activities such as consultation, assessment, intervention, supervision, and research that are designed to meet the health and psychological needs of the clients.
2. The intern shall spend time in research activity which may include evaluating the outcomes of services delivered and the effectiveness of the intern’s own training. This time shall not exceed 25% of the internship. The intern shall spend at least 25% of his or her time in direct (face-to-face) psychological services to clients or patients.
3. The internship agency has a written statement or brochure which describes the goals and content of the internship program, states clear expectations for the quality of trainees’ work, training, and supervision, and is made available to prospective interns. The internship agency, preparing institution, and intern have a written agreement that describes the goals and content of the internship including clearly stated expectations for the nature of experiences offered in the agency and for the quantity and quality of the work. Each intern should have a written statement that includes, but is not limited to, salary, benefits, reimbursable travel, holidays, and other relevant data.
4. Internship programs have documented due process procedures for interns which are given to interns at the beginning of the training period.
5. Full-time internships may be completed in no less than 9 months; part-time internships may extend no more than 24 months. The internship year must include a minimum of 1,500 hours in activities described above.

6. Internship agencies are required to issue a certificate or “Official Statement” of psychology internship completion to all who have successfully completed the internship program.

7. The internship agency employs a clearly designated doctoral-level psychologist, who: (a) is currently licensed/certified by the State Regulatory Board of Psychology to practice at the independent level, (b) is responsible for the integrity and quality of the internship program, and (c) is present at the training facility for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Intern supervision may be shared with other appropriately credentialed personnel in the psychological service unit, but the licensed/certified psychologist assumes 100% responsibility for the supervision provided. The psychological service unit providing the internship training has at least two psychologists on the staff.

8. The internship includes at least two hours per week of regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face individual supervision with the specific intent of dealing with the psychological services rendered directly by the intern. The supervisor (described in #7 above) must provide at least one hour per week of supervision.

9. In addition to individual supervision (as described in #8 above), there is an additional average of at least two hours per week in scheduled learning activities such as case conferences involving a case in which the intern is actively involved, seminars dealing with professional issues, and in-service training. These activities may be in conjunction with professionals other than school psychologists and may include such planned activities as attending school board meetings (if the internship is in a school) or observing other units in delivery of health and/or child care services.

10. The intern must have regularly scheduled, supervised, and documented training activities with other psychology interns. The internship must have two or more full-time equivalent interns. However, agencies having the capacity for only one intern may meet the spirit of this criterion (i.e., the socialization of doctoral-level psychology interns) by having regularly scheduled and documented training activities with psychology interns at other sites in the immediate geographic areas or, when internship sites are at a significant distance from each other, by making arrangements for regularly scheduled meetings of interns for several hours on a monthly basis.

11. Reports by the intern to consumers, other agency or school personnel, or other relevant publics must be co-signed by the licensed psychologist supervisor for the intern.

12. The trainee has a title such as “intern,” “resident,” or other designation of trainee status.