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### **CAPIC takes steps to reduce the national psychology doctoral internship crisis.**

The California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC), is a non-profit organization established in 1991 in California to address the lack of doctoral internship training opportunities for in-state doctoral students in professional psychology. CAPIC spearheaded the development of the half-time internship model, which is now a widely accepted alternative to the full-time model, and which has made the internship training experience available to a wider range of individuals by being more responsive to the demographic changes in – and the diverse needs of – the graduate psychology student population.

CAPIC is now taking steps to address the national need for doctoral level internship training. Each year, nearly 250 qualified doctoral internship candidates are left without an internship as a capstone their clinical training prior to graduation. CAPIC currently places approximately 400 qualified candidates among its 130 qualified doctoral internship sites throughout California. As academic institutions across the country struggle to place their students every year, the demands for placements have outweighed the supply of qualified internships. The imbalance has become an obstacle to prepare professional psychologists to serve the public good. In ameliorating this national crisis, CAPIC has reached back to its grassroots beginnings to lend a hand to students caught in this national crisis. CAPIC is extending its unfilled qualified doctoral internship slots to all clinical psychology doctoral students across the nation from regionally accredited universities with APA-accredited doctoral academic programs who find themselves without an internship on May 1, 2014, when CAPIC Post-Clearinghouse commences.

CAPIC recognizes that licensing rules for psychologists vary from state to state. Academic institutions and prospective CAPIC interns from out-of-state programs should be aware, that while CAPIC and California Board of Psychology (CA BoP) standards are high, acceptance by other states is not guaranteed. The accrual of Supervised Professional Experience (SPE) hours at CAPIC internships and fellowships are accepted by the CA BoP towards licensure, alongside APPIC-member and APA-accredited programs, and CAPIC's own doctoral internship membership criteria is adapted from APPIC's criteria. One significant difference is that CAPIC encourages but does not require stipends for interns at its doctoral internship programs/agencies. Also, CAPIC explicitly requires comprehensive cultural competency training. A comparison of APPIC and CAPIC Membership criteria is posted on our [CAPIC website](http://www.capic.net).

Academic institutions and prospective interns should consult with the BoP of any state where the student plans to apply for licensure as a psychologist to ensure that SPE hours accrued at CAPIC programs are acceptable, although many state licensure boards may not be able to make a fair and final determination until it has reviewed the intern's training experience. In particular, academic institutions and prospective interns should note that many CAPIC sites offer 1500 SPE hours, while many state BoP's require 2000 SPE hours. Prospective interns are encouraged to confirm this with the internship site directly and/or determine if additional SPE hours are available.

*Promoting Excellence in Professional Psychological Training  
Doctoral Academic Programs Ψ Doctoral Internship Programs Ψ Postdoctoral Programs*

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Academic institutions and prospective interns should also be aware that some national employers (e.g. the Veterans Administration) may not accept the psychology license credentials not accrued at an APA-accredited site, although it is not clear whether this standard is universally applied. Still, CAPIC internships are fully recognized by the CA BoP, and are particularly well-suited for psychologists who wish to serve in California, particularly in public mental health settings.

To be considered a CAPIC intern, the student's doctoral academic program must be a CAPIC member. As such, out-of-state doctoral psychology programs must meet CAPIC membership criteria. Since CAPIC recognizes APA-accredited doctoral academic programs as meeting CAPIC's criteria, these programs do not need further review. Regionally accredited doctoral academic programs which are not APA-accredited require a further review and will not be immediately eligible for this program. Additionally, CAPIC requires that all core curriculum courses must be taught face-to-face (non-virtual) and cannot be taught in an online or electronic fashion. Exclusively online programs are ineligible for the CAPIC doctoral academic program membership.

To participate in this initial roll-out as a new Out-of-state CAPIC doctoral academic program, an interested doctoral academic program must:

1. Be an APA-accredited doctoral academic program in clinical psychology.
2. Agree to abide by CAPIC's policies and procedures.
3. Confirm their understanding (via attestation) that licensure requirements for psychologists vary from state to state and they and their students should be aware that acceptance by other states is not guaranteed.
  - In particular, confirm their understanding that many CAPIC sites offer 1500 hours and some states require 2000 hours. Students are advised to confirm that with the site.
  - In particular, confirm their understanding that some employers (e.g. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs aka VA) only accept APA-accredited internship programs.

*NOTE: For this initial rollout, CAPIC is waiving the usual out-of-state doctoral academic program membership fee. This fee covers participation by as many students as the out-of-state Doctoral Academic Program desires, with participation commencing at the CAPIC Post-Clearinghouse phase.*

- Students will also need to attest to their understanding of CAPIC internships and their willingness to abide by CAPIC policies and by the terms of an agreement formed with a CAPIC internship program.

### **Basic Steps for Participating:**

1. Students from prospective out-of-state doctoral academic programs will need to register on the CAPIC website ([www.capic.net](http://www.capic.net)) in order to participate and possibly accept an internship with a CAPIC internship site.
  - When a student from a prospective out-of-state doctoral academic program registers on the CAPIC website, the doctoral academic program will receive email notification from CAPIC of the student's request.

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- The doctoral academic program will need to confirm the student's current enrollment in its program. This also gives the doctoral academic program notice of a student's intent to obtain a CAPIC internship, and allows the doctoral academic program to evaluate both the student's readiness and the internship's appropriateness.
- If the student submits an application via the CAPIC website, the doctoral academic program will also receive an email from CAPIC, asking it to verify the student's eligibility and readiness for internship. The guidelines for this verification are provided here:  
<http://www.capic.net/material/Student/CERF%20With%20Approval%20Guidelines%20-%202014%20Match.pdf>
  - This verification is required to submit an application via the CAPIC website. If a student submits application materials directly to an internship and bypasses the CAPIC website, the Doctoral Academic Program remains responsible for ensuring that she/he is eligible and ready.
- 2. Participating students must attest to their understanding of issues and guidelines regarding CAPIC internships. Participating students must also attest that their application materials are accurate and that they agree to abide by CAPIC and other relevant policies. The student attestation is available online here: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1626175/Student-Attestation>
- 3. The doctoral academic program will also need to attest its agreement to comply with CAPIC policies and its understanding of aspects of CAPIC internships, as noted above. The doctoral academic program attestation is available online here: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1626303/Doctoral-Attestation>
  - If a prospective out-of-state doctoral academic program does not wish its students to participate, please inform CAPIC. CAPIC will then inform any such students who apply that they are not eligible to participate in the CAPIC match.
- 4. In Post-Clearinghouse, after registering, students are not required to submit application materials via the CAPIC website, but may direct contact CAPIC internship programs of interest.
  - Students should confirm with those internships, what application materials are required and how they are to be submitted. See the attached PowerPoint presentation. Additional support materials on the CAPIC match process are also posted on the CAPIC website at <http://www.capic.net/forms.html>.
  - Students should keep their doctoral academic program informed to ensure the internship program meets the doctoral academic program's requirements.
  - Internship programs contact students directly to arrange interviews and evaluate them.
  - Internships directly extend internship offers to students, as appropriate.
- 5. If an internship is accepted, it is binding on both parties. The internship program informs CAPIC of the internship and details of the match (e.g. student name, doctoral academic program, type of internship).
  - In turn, CAPIC informs the doctoral academic program of accepted internships.
  - Similarly, if a doctoral academic program learns of any formed internships, it should inform CAPIC.

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If you have questions or concerns regarding this outreach to out-of-state doctoral academic programs, please call CAPIC at 925-969-4550 or send an email to us at [capicadmin@capic.net](mailto:capicadmin@capic.net).