

A Universal Health Services, Inc. Psychiatric Hospital

Overview of Doctoral Psychology Advanced Practicum Program 2022-2023

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LENGTH OF TRAINING: 2-3 half-time doctoral psychology practicum students are selected each training year. The tentative start date is August 29, 2022, ending on August 25, 2023. The training program is 52 weeks, with 3 weeks (69 hours total) time off (this can be modified for practicum students accepted to internships). Practicum program is 23 hours per week with 20 hours of clinical services and 2 hours of group supervision/ or Clinical Lecture and 1 hour of individual supervision. The practicum students are onsite three days a week (totaling 20 hours per week). Students can request an earlier start date to end earlier. Days and times are flexible.

Please note that there is mandatory training before the start date to be arranged as well as background check, medical screening, TB test, Covid Vaccine Status, and Drug Screen (A positive THC screen will disqualify potential students).

NOTIFICATION: As determined by SCAPTP Notification

APPLICATION DUE DATE & PROCEDURES: Email CV to Dr. Dadourian (JDadourian@gmail.com) as soon as possible. (NO REFERENCES NEEDED). Your questions about the practicum are always welcome by contacting me by email. Please name your CV with your last name and CV (e.g. SmithCV....). Zoom group interviews will be offered during the months of February and March.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SERVICES

This training site is an excellent opportunity for graduate students in psychology to learn about severe psychiatric disorders, traumatic stress and learn skills of rapid stabilization and brief focused treatment. The majority of treatment is group psychotherapy and psychoeducation. There are opportunities to render individual & family discharge planning sessions focused on helping patients in understanding their triggers, symptoms, learning healthy coping skills and establishing social support as well as motivating them in following up with outpatient services. All practicum students will learn to assess for chemical dependency as well as learning the relationship between addictions and psychiatric disorders. Trainees participate in multi-disciplinary treatment planning and milieu therapy.

ADVANCED PRACTICUM STUDENTS: Advanced practicum students will be given the opportunity to design a clinical experience to enhance specific clinical skills they wish to enhance with Dr. Dadourian, their supervisor. The learning objectives will be discussed

during the interview process to ensure the desired clinical skills can be achieved.

PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT UNITS:

Adult Acute Inpatient: The program focus is to curtail dysfunctional symptoms and establish a level of safety for the patient to be discharged to a less restrictive level of care, i.e. partial hospitalization, outpatient, residential care, etc. The age range is from 18 and up. Examples of training opportunities include; co-leading and leading groups, individual crisis intervention, family discharge sessions, psychosocial/ chemical dependency assessments, treatment planning and limited psychological assessments (testing). Currently there are three adult units one of which is for older adults.

Youth Services Acute Inpatient: The program focus is to curtail dysfunctional symptoms and establish a level of safety for the patient to be discharged to a less restrictive level of care, i.e. partial hospitalization, outpatient, residential care, etc. The unit is divided into two separate units, **pediatrics** (6 to 12 years of age) and **adolescents** (13 to 17 years of age). Examples of training opportunities include: co- leading and leading groups, individual crisis intervention, family discharge sessions, psychosocial/ chemical dependency assessments, treatment planning and limited psychological assessments (testing).

PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENTS

Practicum students will be rotated through the various psychiatric units to experience a wide range of psychopathology and treatment strategies. Typically, practicum students serve as co-therapists with a hospital group therapist and eventually will lead their own groups.

THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

The theoretical orientation of the hospital is crisis intervention and stabilization-oriented drawing from cognitive- behavioral (emphasis on Dialectical Behavioral Therapy/ Acceptance and Commitment Therapy/ Trauma Informed Care) and systems theories. Supervision will consist of case analysis which may include psychodynamic or existential theoretical perspectives. Practicum students will also learn a great deal about psycho-traumatology and addictions as well as the use of psychotropic medications used by the attending psychiatrists in stabilizing patients in acute crisis.

SUPERVISION AND TRAINING

The hospital is committed to provide practicum students with the necessary supervision to meet state licensing and APA requirements as determined prior to the beginning of the practicum. We take great care to assure the student has a gradual supportive introduction into this challenging setting. Typically, practicum students serve as co-therapists with a staff therapist. Practicum students receive two- hours of weekly group

supervision or Clinical Lectures and one hour of individual supervision from a licensed psychologist.

VACATION & HOLIDAYS

There are three weeks of time off (60 hours) that must be pre-approved by the Director of Clinical Training. Since the hospital is open 24-7, 365 days a year there are no assumed holidays. All holidays must be pre-approved as well as vacations.

COVID 19

All clinical services are in person following the hospital's Covid-19 policies. During the interview you will be informed of current vaccination policies.