

Memorial University's Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Guidelines for Non-accredited Internships (Updated April 2023)

Our program requires completion of a predoctoral internship, which is CPA and/or APA accredited, "or equivalent". The usual expectation is that students will apply for accredited internships via the APPIC application process. However, occasionally, due to students' personal circumstances, this is not possible and the "or equivalent" needs to be invoked.

This set of guidelines is designed to guide students, internship supervisors, and the Director of Clinical Training (DCT) to ensure that when non-accredited internships are necessary, certain standards of the training experience are maintained. In general, the internship should approximate as far as possible an accredited internship and interested parties are referred to relevant APPIC, CPA and APA documents.

The Purpose of an Internship

The internship is meant to be a higher level of training than a practicum. As the final experience of clinical training, it is the opportunity for the student "to integrate the theoretical, practical, and scientific in their emergent roles as professional psychologists. It is this integrative process and requirement that sets the internship apart from earlier practicum experiences which focus more concretely on the acquisition of skills." (CPA, p. 59). Neither is the internship meant to be a job, which the student is already capable of doing. It is to be a high-level professional training experience.

Requirements

- 1600 hours
- Full-time for one calendar year OR part-time over 2 years
- Typically 2 to 4 "rotations" or separate experiences in different clinics or departments, to ensure breadth of experience
- Regularly scheduled, individual supervision: 4 hours per week (3 individual, 1 may be group or other format) from registered, doctoral level Psychologist (may be supplemented by other disciplines, etc.)
- More than one Psychologist on site and/or a clear back-up plan if supervisor were to become unavailable
- Preferably more than one intern and/or practicum students training at site
- Opportunities for didactic clinical and/or research and/or professional experiences (Rounds, seminars, lectures, etc.)
- No more than 2/3 of time in direct service
- Appropriate logistical support (office, computer, email, secure storage, clerical, audiovisual, technical support, library, etc.)
- Intern evaluation forms (format provided by MUN) completed after each rotation or at least interim and final and sent to the DCT

Skills and Knowledge to be included in Training

(Skills should be of sufficient depth and breadth to render the student eligible for registration)

- Psychological assessment and diagnosis – range of assessment processes and populations/age groups
- Intervention – training in empirically-supported interventions, training in more than one therapeutic modality
- Consultation
- Program development and evaluation
- Supervision of junior colleagues (e.g., practicum student)
- Diversity awareness and cultural humility

Written, approved Training Plan:

The intern and supervisor, with specific training goals for each rotation, develop an individualized training plan. The plan is designed and implemented in an organized and coherent fashion, moving progressively towards more complexity and responsibility. The plan includes details about each rotation, client groups served, types of psychological services provided, caseload expectations, and so on. The plan must be approved by the DCT.