GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Practicum Overview

In addition to Doctoral Interns, we typically train Psychology Externs each year. These students are usually enrolled in a local psychology graduate program. Students wishing to apply for practicum training must be enrolled in a program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), or in a program that is actively pursuing such accreditation. At this time, we do not have supervisors who are able to take students in CACREP-accredited master’s programs under VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) guidelines. We do not accept bachelors-level students at this time.

Practicum training at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is available year-round. Applications are reviewed and there is a competitive selection process.

There is one application review period per year, per site:

Biloxi: January 18 - February 12, 2018 for Summer rotation (May-August) or year-long rotation (August-April). Students are welcome for more than one rotation if they desire.


Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as early as possible during the selected review period, using our standard application form. Training slots are limited. Supervisor availability may vary from year to year. Placements are determined by a match between students’ interests and experience and supervisors’ expertise and availability. Please refer to our doctoral internship documentation for examples of possible training opportunities. See pages 5-9

In terms of hours, practicum students need to dedicate at least 1 day per week to on-site practicum training. Total on-site hours range from 8 to 40 hours per week. Some supervisors may also require offsite work consisting of readings relevant to the practicum or online training through TMS (VA’s online training system). Some TMS training is necessary as part of the onboarding process.

Although graduate programs often instruct students to complete either an "assessment" or an "intervention" practicum, many of the training experiences at Gulf Coast do not lend themselves to doing just assessment or just intervention. Therefore, some flexibility in terms of graduate program and practicum student expectations is needed.

Practicum placements are unpaid at this time.

Application Process
In order to apply for practicum training at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, please follow the sequence listed below:

1. Complete an application which can be downloaded from our web page. E-mail the application, a vita, and letter of intent to:
2. Submit of a letter of readiness for practicum training. Letter should be completed by your Director of Training and should be e-mailed directly to the Practicum Coordinators in Mobile or Biloxi during the selected review period. An additional letter of recommendation (optional) by a clinical supervisor may be submitted in a similar manner as well.

3. Applications will be reviewed by supervisory staff and selected applicants will be contacted for interviews. Depending upon academic and clinical experience and other factors, applicants may be interviewed by telephone or in-person.

4. All applicants not selected to be interviewed will be notified by e-mail.

5. Additional federal employment forms and processes will be required for trainees who serve without compensation (WOC). Selected applicants will be required to complete fingerprinting and a physical examination at a VA medical center.

Further information regarding Psychology Practicum Training at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System may be obtained by contacting:

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Revised 1/9/2018