



North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Division of Adult Corrections

Masters Level Internships
in
Professional Psychology

GOALS

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety's Division of Adult Correction's primary goal is to promote public safety by the administration of a fair and humane system which provides reasonable opportunities for adjudicated offenders to develop progressively responsible behavior.

The North Carolina Division of Adult Correction (NC DAC) Masters Level Internships in Professional Psychology offer interns education, training, and preparation for the future practice of professional psychology. Our internships provide a platform for future work in substance abuse, trauma, severe mental illness, community mental health, and integrated healthcare settings. In addition, the NC DAC Masters Level Internships provide a wealth of corrections-specific instruction for interns wishing to find permanent employment in a correctional setting. This goal is accomplished by providing interns with training, supervision, and opportunities to achieve proficiency in consultation, assessment, and intervention and therapy with a diverse, under-served, disenfranchised, and frequently disadvantaged client population.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The North Carolina DAC has the responsibility to deliver comprehensive mental health services which provide for the care and treatment of inmates with mental disorders. Treatment programs contain multi-disciplinary services designed to prevent, control, reduce or eliminate those conditions which contribute to the inmate's mental impairment. These services include, but are not limited to: (1) patient identification and diagnosis, (2) services for the acutely ill, (3) outpatient services, (4) residential services, (5) special programs for selected diagnostic categories, and (6) preventive services.

MASTERS LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIPS

This program offers unpaid internships to graduate students in masters programs of psychology. Internship placements can be arranged in various prison facilities across North Carolina with either male or female inmate populations in either the youth or adult commands. Most of these Internships involve working with an outpatient mental health team following a community mental health center model with the communities served being a large institution or a number of smaller prison units. However, there are also opportunities to intern in specialized programs for inmates with intellectual disabilities, with serious and persistent mental illness, and for those with sexual offenses. Some of these programs are based on an Inpatient or Residential model while others follow a Day treatment or partial hospitalization model.

All of the Internship sites are committed to helping the student acquire those generic clinical skills necessary to perform the duties of a Staff Psychologist in a health service setting. A written evaluation of the Intern's professional skills and personal abilities will be conducted midway through the Internship and a final evaluation will be conducted giving the Intern's strength and areas needing further improvement.

There are general characteristics of all the Internships regardless of the setting. The Internships start with a period of observation and familiarization with clinical/counseling work in a correctional setting. During this initial period, the Intern reads policy and procedure manuals and becomes familiar with the documentation required for mental health services. Concurrently, the Intern accompanies a psychologist and observes mental health evaluations, therapy sessions, crisis interventions, and group therapy. When the staff and the Intern both feel comfortable with additional independence, the Intern begins conducting mental health screenings and assumes an individual therapy case load while being observed by a psychologist supervisor.

All Interns are provided experience with conducting mental health screenings with a population that contains serious mental health disorders as well as personality disorders. The Intern will have the opportunity to interview and evaluate a sample of psychotic and affective disorders as well as various personality disorders. The Intern will have an opportunity to administer, under supervision, assessment instruments (like the WAIS-IV and MMPI-2). Training in projectives may be included in the Internship.

INTERNSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Internship eligibility requires that the student be currently enrolled in a masters program in psychology that meets the standards set forth by the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act ([21 NCAC54 .1802](#)) which outlines the minimum requirements:

- 1) The program shall be identified and labeled as a psychology program; such a program shall specify in institutional catalogues its intent to educate and train students to engage in the activities which constitute the practice of psychology as defined in G.S. 90-270.2(8).
- 2) The program shall maintain authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas even if the program crosses administrative lines.
- 3) The program shall have an identifiable body of students in residence at the institution who are matriculated in that program for a degree.
- 4) There shall be an identifiable full-time psychology faculty in residence at the institution, sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities, employed by and providing instruction at the home campus of the institution.
- 5) There shall be a psychologist responsible for the student's program either as the administrative head of the program, or as the advisor, major professor, or committee chair for the individual student's program.
- 6) The program shall be an integrated, organized sequence of study in psychology as demonstrated by an identifiable curriculum track or tracks wherein course sequences and course content are described in institutional catalogues, departmental handbooks, or other institutional publications.

- 7) The program shall encompass the equivalent of a minimum of one academic year of full-time graduate study in student residence at the institution from which the degree is granted. Residence requires interaction with psychology faculty and other matriculated psychology students at the institution. One year's residency is defined as 30 semester (45 quarter or 40 trimester) hours taken on a full-time or part-time basis at the institution.
- 8) The program shall include, as listed on the transcript, internship, externship, practicum, or other supervised field experience appropriate to the area of specialty and the practice of psychology, as defined in G.S. 90-270.2(8), which shall be referred to hereinafter as supervised training experience. This supervised training experience shall meet all of the following criteria:

For additional information contact:

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