



Inside this issue:

Thursday Seminars	1
First year student practica	1
New policies on waived hours	2
New DCT forms	2
Practicum Spotlight	3
APPIC timeline	4
Google map	4

Pacifica's Clinical Training Newsletter is intended to be a source of information about policies and issues surrounding practicum and internship training at Pacifica. We plan to post a new issue every month on the Pacifica Website.

Contact Dr. Bennett if you would like to make a submission!

Thursday Practicum Seminars planned for 10-11



In a series of Chat with the Chair presentations during the third Fall session, President Steve Aizenstat, Clinical Chair Jim Broderick, and Director of Clinical Training Matthew Bennett unveiled a newly designed curriculum which includes three-hour practicum seminars for all students.

The seminars will replace the lunchtime practicum colloquia and will take place on Thursday from 6 PM to 9 PM.

Seminars will be designed as Professional Development Seminars for first year, Diagnostic Practicum Seminars for second year, and

Psychotherapy Practicum Seminars for third year. The seminars will serve as small discussion groups in which to discuss field practicum settings for second and third year students, and issues of career development and professional skills for first year.

Tracks will be divided in two for purposes of the seminars, in order to retain smaller groups. The three hours will be divided between two hour-and-a-half segments, focusing on skills practice and then seminar-style discussion on selected clinical topics.

Seminars will not be held over the Summer; instead, students will be asked to report for an Assessment Module meeting with the Director of Training or Practicum Coordinator in order to assess readiness for the next stage of training. The Assessment Module will take the form of a mock job interview, and will also reinforce interview skills for students. Students will be given feedback and guidance about their progress and interview skills as a result.

We look forward to a lot of fun and enrichment with these seminars!

First Year Students to hit the streets

The office of the DCT recommends that first year students begin searching for a practicum arrangement for next year. Although many sites interview and accept practicum students throughout the year, others have set schedules for this, and some have deadlines as early as February to start in Fall.

Also, first year students are

reminded that their practicum should ideally have an assessment component. As part of their practicum seminar requirement, these students will be required to submit six written clinical assessments over the course of the second year. Therefore, when interviewing for practica, students should make sure they will be able to do some kind of assessment.

The ideal assessment experience is original psychological testing (selection and administration of assessment instruments, interpretation, write-up), but intake assessments and clinical interviews are good experience, too.

Remember that psychological testing experience will help you land an internship!

“Waiver” policy discontinued this year

The office of the DCT reminds all students that all practicum and internship sites must be approved before accruing hours. Previously, the department maintained a “waiver” policy which allowed students to apply for approval for training which occurred in the past. The waiver will be cancelled as of January 1, 2010, which gives students time to report in to the office of the DCT to obtain credit for hours they have logged.

All students are urged to ensure that they have registered their practica with Breeanna Dixon. After the January 1 deadline, no credit will be awarded for practica that we have not pre-approved. If you have practicum hours you have not registered with us, contact Breeanna Dixon at Bdixon@pacifica.edu or phone at (805) 679-6191. The fax number is (805) 565-5796.

For more information about the details involved in applying for a practicum,

please see our new Clinical Training Handbook online at:

<http://www.pacifica.edu/clinicaltraininghandbook.pdf>

The waiver form requires three documents: an attestation from the supervisor, completed supervisor evaluation of student form, and supervisor CV.

This mechanism allows recognition of up to 500 hours of training experience that occurred up to 4 years ago, but not prior to entering the program.

The policy of crediting practicum hours which occurred in the past will be discontinued in January 2010. Students are required to register their practicum with the DCT prior to obtaining hours.

New Forms: Site Proposal, Training Agreement, Status Change, Evaluation of Site

The DCT is rolling out fun new forms for your filling-out pleasure, and updating old ones. The **Site Proposal form** should be submitted prior to interviewing at a practicum site to ensure it meets basic requirements. The **Training Agreement form** will be completed in

conjunction with your site supervisor when you have landed the new practicum. The **Status Change form** is submitted whenever you begin or end a training site, or if the training site institutes a significant change to your training plan (i.e., new supervisor, new training site,

etc). The **Evaluation of Site form** should be completed when completing a practicum or internship. This is your chance to review the site for the benefit of any future Pacifica students there.

In general, all of the clinical training forms have now been updated, and students should

start using these new forms in lieu of the old ones. The new forms have distinctive Pacifica logo branding. Contact Breeanna if in doubt.

All forms are posted to the Pacifica website for download. They should be submitted to Breeanna Dixon.

Contact Information for Office of DCT

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Practicum Spotlight: California Family Counseling Center Encino, CA / Karen Peterson



The Story:

While sitting in class during summer session, an email came across indicating that there was a last minute opening at CalFam in Encino for a practicum. At the next break, I called the person listed on the email and left a message. In a matter of a couple of hours, I received a call back and set up an interview for two days later. It

The Site:

California Family Counseling Center (CalFam) located in Encino is connected to Phillips Graduate Institute. The counseling center was started in 1971 with the objective of providing Phillips students and graduates with opportunities to gain practical training and counseling experience through traineeships and internships. It is a fee for service counseling center offering a wide range of counseling, therapy and psychological testing services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. CalFam is a non-profit counseling center and the fees are based on a client's ability to pay.

The psychological testing practicum (clerkship) is designed to provide doctoral students with experience in administering and interpreting psychodiagnostic testing in an applied clinical setting. The focus is on learning all about testing, including administering, scoring, interpreting, and preparing psychological testing reports. We are responsible for providing written and verbal feedback and referrals to clients and making treatment recommendations as necessary. So far, the tests I have administered include personality inventories, projective tests, intelligence and achievement tests, as well as tests specific to referral questions, such as developmental tests and neuropsychological tests.

wasn't until the interview was set that I began to question my qualifications. As my self doubt began to rise, I decided it would be prudent to meet with Dr. Bennett so that he might counsel me on how to put my best foot forward during the interviewing process.

During our meeting the next day, Dr. Bennett reviewed my resume encouraging me to make a few changes to

get rid of some "fluff". He also advised me to read up on the clinic so that I would be better informed during the interview. He advised me to be open and honest about my experience while focusing on my personal strengths and willingness to learn.

My interview with Dr. Elkins went well but she ended up referring me to Dr. Kretz with the clerkship.

We had a phone interview on Saturday night and I was offered the position on Sunday. The very next day I was sitting in the orientation. I am certain that my decision to utilize the mentoring available from Dr. Bennett as well as having studied with Dr. Groth-Marnat helped me considerably in securing the position.

The Skinny:

The practicum is 11 months in duration and the commitment is approximately 15-20 hours per week. I spend approximately 6 - 8 hours per week administering tests, with additional time allotted for scoring, interpreting, preparing reports, and providing client feedback. In addition, I receive three hours per week of group supervision, one hour per week of individual supervision, and two hours per week of seminar. Group supervision is held on Tuesdays from 9am - 12pm and is providing me with an in-depth education on the various tests and how to interpret them. The weekly seminars focus on a variety of topics related to clinical work and are scheduled on Wednesdays from 10am - 12pm. The seminars are well planned and conducted by licensed psychologists. For me, they are the nuts and bolts of "real life" practice and serve to support and enhance my training experience.

It's a challenge to balance school, work and family with the demands of the practicum. While I'm working harder than I ever have before, I love what I am doing and know that my education at CalFam is providing me with career enhancing experience.

"While I'm working harder than I ever have before, I love what I am doing."

APPIC time is here!

The DCT processed a total of 21 APPIC internship applications for Pacifica students. Here are some important APPIC Match process dates. Remember CAPIC is right around the corner!

NOVEMBER 1, 2009 By this date, a Listing of Programs participating in the Match will be available for access by applicants and programs on this web site.

DECEMBER 1, 2009 Recommended date by which applicants should register for the Match.

DECEMBER 31, 2009 By this date, instructions for submitting Rank Order Lists and obtaining Match results will be available to applicants and training sites registered to participate in the Match.

FEBRUARY 3, 2010 Final date for submission of applicant and program Rank Order Lists. No Rank Order Lists or registrations can be accepted after this date.

FEBRUARY 19, 2010 Applicants will be informed as to whether or not they have been matched to an internship position. However, applicants will NOT be told the specific program to which they are matched until Match Day.

FEBRUARY 22, 2010 APPIC Match Day: Results of the Match are released to applicants and training directors.

CAPIC timeline

January 29

Southern California/LA Internship Fair & Meeting

February 5

Northern California Internship Fair & Member Meeting

San Diego Internship Fair & Member Meeting—Alliant/CSPP, San Diego

February 10-13

NCSPP Annual Meeting – Orlando, Florida

CAPIC & CPA Division II Southern California Conference: Supervision

March 5

Student Predoctoral Internship Application Deadline

March 22

Last day for agencies to notify applicants who they do not intend to consider

April 5

Predoctoral Internship Uniform Notification Day (response required by noon)

Clearinghouse for Internship Placement (noon & ongoing)

Google Map of practicum sites now available

The office of the DCT has placed current practicum sites on a Google map. Students can log into this map and see practicum sites pinpointed geographically on a map. Individual practicum sites are represented as yellow house icons.

Clicking the icons will open a window showing the address of the practicum.

Students are encouraged to let us know if they discover that information on this map is inaccurate or out of date.

Practicum sites are also available in list form on the Pacifica website, on the “internship” page.

A link appears on the “Internship Links and Resources Page.”

