

To: Potential Practicum Site

Thank you for considering a Pacifica Graduate Institute student for a practicum experience at your site. The student who has approached you is enrolled in the Master's Degree Program in Counseling Psychology. Pacifica is accredited through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and meets the curriculum requirements leading to licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the state of California.

Pacifica requires students to engage in a supervised practicum experience in their home communities for three to six sequential quarters. The supervised practicum is intended to complement the student's graduate coursework and to provide the student an opportunity to learn "hands-on" clinical skills, including assessment, diagnosis, knowledge of legal and ethical issues, referrals and adjunctive services, treatment of mental disorders, therapeutic interventions, case management, prognosis, and termination.

This is the first clinical experience for most students. While engaged in their supervised practicum, students are concurrently enrolled in a Clinical Practice course. These six sequential quarter courses teach skills in assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, oral and written case presentations, maintenance of progress notes, legal and ethical considerations, as well as effective case management. Students complete 36.25 quarter units in course work by the time they begin their supervised practicum. Some of these courses include Counseling and Psychotherapeutic Theories and Techniques, Human Growth and Development, Professional Orientation: Ethics and the Law, Geropsychology and Long Term Care, Family Systems and Domestic Violence, Ethics and the Law: Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment, Multicultural Counseling theories and Techniques, Psychopathology, and Group Counseling Theories and Techniques.

The supervised practicum is an exciting and challenging experience for our students and has the potential to provide valuable feedback as well as a rich introduction to the practice of psychotherapy and clinical counseling. It is the intent of Pacifica to establish cooperative and collaborative relationships with the practicum sites so that our students may become sensitive, compassionate, and skilled clinicians.

If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or to preview Pacifica's website at [www.pacifica.edu](http://www.pacifica.edu) and the practicum website at [www.pacifica.edu/practicum\\_resources](http://www.pacifica.edu/practicum_resources).

Sincerely,

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