



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

83 WINDHAM STREET • WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT 06226 • 860-465-5000

PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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The Psychology Internship is an undergraduate class where students acquire knowledge about the methods of intervention and the philosophy of a placement agency by participating in a supportive role. Although interns are not paid as fully trained employees, they can provide a creative and energetic force.

Student interns must be juniors or seniors and must maintain an appropriate grade point average. They have weekly supervision with a psychological science faculty member at the University. This includes specific instruction on ethical issues such as confidentiality and dual relationships, as well as clinical supervision.

A placement site may host any number of students, from one to many. Student interns work 8-16 hours per week on-site. Placements are on a semester-by-semester basis following ECSU's schedule. The fall semester begins in late-August and ends in December. The spring semester begins in mid-January and ends in May. Students may also intern over the summer. Students may participate in the placement for more than one semester if both student and agency agree.

Dr. Keyes is the Internship Director for the Department of Psychological Science at ECSU. She is the person that placement sites may contact throughout the year regarding standard procedures of the internship program. Although students may have different professors supervising them on campus each semester, Dr. Keyes is a consistent resource for placement sites.

How does a student select a site?

1. The internship site completes a survey describing the services offered and demographic information.
2. Our department presents these descriptions to the students.
3. Interested students are directed to you, the Internship Contact Person at the site, for an interview.
4. The Contact Person (you) may either accept or reject the student(s), and the student may accept the site or seek an alternative site.
5. The student contacts their chosen site to confirm the placement and the site confirms whether or not they have accepted the student.



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Fingerprints

If your student interns need fingerprints, it is best to tell them at the interview. For sites who wish, EASTCONN will fingerprint new ECSU psychology interns, maintain their information in the EASTCONN registry, and send the intern's information to the sites of the intern's choice

The role of the site placement organization

We have students in a wide array of organizations (schools, hospitals, clinics) serving a wide array of people (ages 3-95). Because of the diverse nature of the sites, these instructions are rather broad.

Step 1. Identify the type of activities in which an intern could participate. These activities will be agency specific. In the past, activities that ECSU students have been involved in have included, but not been limited to:

- 1 – 1 mentoring
- 1 – 1 or small group tutoring
- Administering and scoring standardized rating scales
- Co-therapy in treatment groups such as social skills training, problem solving, couples therapy, substance abuse, children of alcoholics, children from divorce, anger management, parent training, and sports medicine
- Crisis intervention / telephone hotlines
- Forensic evaluations
- Implementing behavior management and behavior analysis programs (sometimes under the BCaBA program)
- Management of service related data
- Peer mediation
- Program design/administration
- Shadowing a master practitioner or a probation officer
- Systematic direct observation
- Supervision of activity groups

A. Furthermore, students may be required to read, write, organize, research or otherwise prepare for their own responsibilities in any reasonable way.

B. Limitations: ECSU students may not drive a car with a client passenger (except DCF). Clerical work such as photocopying, filing, and correcting tests is not appropriate unless it a specific part of the duties required for working with the clients to whom the ECSU student is assigned. ECSU students may not use physical restraint. ECSU students are not paid.



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C. We assume that the undergraduate student intern position would not otherwise go to entry-level paid employees.

Step 2. Supervision must be available to the students at the internship site. Assign an Intern Supervisor. This supervisor may be the same person as the Contact Person or may be another employee of the agency. Students may not be supervised by a relative.

Step 3. Together, the student and the Intern Supervisor complete an Internship Agreement that describes the student intern's role and expectations.

Step 4. Identify an alternative supervisor so the student knows where to turn in case the primary Intern Supervisor is absent when a student is at the site. Students are not to be left alone at a site without access to their supervisor or designee.

Step 5. At the end of the semester, the Intern Supervisor evaluates the performance of the student intern with an Internship Evaluation form provided by ECSU.

Step 6. As necessary, the Intern Supervisor communicates with the ECSU faculty mentor regarding the intern and the host relationship.

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