

PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP

What is the process of obtaining a Practicum and Internship site?

The School Psychology program has established strong relationships with multiple school districts within the Capital Region, and counties throughout New York State. Each student will be matched at one of these sites by the primary faculty.

What is the benefit of the matching process?

A key element to our program is cultivating a supportive, collaborative environment in which cohort members work together towards becoming successful school psychologists. The process of matching a student with a school district eliminates competition for a specific site, reduces the stress of trying to find a site, and increases the knowledge that the school district will provide you with a well rounded diverse experience.

Do students have input as to the type of Practicum/Internship experience they are to receive?

Absolutely! It is important to match the personal and professional goals of every student. All students provide the faculty with this information which is carefully considered in determining possible placement.

At what point in the program do students begin their practicum and internship?

In the second semester of the second year, students will begin their 240 hour practicum. Students attend their practicum site twice a week from January to May. In your third year, you do a full time, five days a week, 1200 hour Internship at the same district in which your practicum took place.

So the Practicum school district site is the same as the Internship site?

This is one of the unique features of our program as the Practicum and Internship occur successively in the same district. We have found that the experiences during the Practicum allow students to hit the ground running when it is time to start Internship.

What is the benefit of the 1200 hour internship?

As a NASP accredited program all students must complete a 1200 hour internship. This is one of the necessary steps to become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP). More importantly, understanding the ebbs and flows of a full school year is invaluable when you are ready to take on your first position as a school psychologist.

Where are the school districts typically located?

A majority of the sites are located within the Capital Region and some within a ninety minute radius. This is important as practicum and internship students must attend an on campus seminar class twice a month throughout the semesters. Districts are found in suburban, urban, and rural areas, each providing a wide array of experiences.

Are there opportunities to work with diverse populations (age, culture, learning environments, etc.)

During the internship year, all students are required to gain diverse experiences at both the primary and secondary level. Further, the seminar classes allow students to learn how other school districts address similar issues.

Do any of the sites provide a stipend?

Some districts do provide a stipend for Interns. This can range from \$3500 to \$10,000. However, most districts DO NOT provide a stipend as budget cuts make this difficult. It is also important to note that during these economic times, districts who have offered a stipend in the past does not guarantee a stipend to be offered the following year. As faculty, we continue to advocate for stipends as we understand the financial strain of attending a graduate training program.