Preparing and Applying for Your Psychology Field Experience

Presenters:

Jennifer Hanson, M.A., Field Education Coordinator
Dina Bergren, M.A., Career Services Advisor
Dr. Rodney Ford, Ph.D., Field Placement Coordinator
Technology How To’s

Audio Mode: select either
• Use Telephone
  or
• Use Mic & Speakers

Questions:
• Please use the Question function to type in and send your question.
• Do not use the Raise Your Hand function to ask questions.
• Questions will be answered towards the end of the webinar.

Archive:
• This webinar will be archived on the Career Services website approximately 2 weeks following the live webinar.
Preparing and Applying for Your Psychology Field Experience

Presenters:

Jennifer Hanson, M.A., Field Education Coordinator
Dina Bergren, M.A., Career Services Advisor
Dr. Rodney Ford, Ph.D., Field Placement Coordinator
Introductions

Jennifer Hanson, M.A.
Field Education Coordinator
School of Psychology

Dina Bergren, M.A.
Career Services Advisor
Walden Career Services

Rodney Ford, Ph.D., LP
Field Placement Coordinator, Clinical Psychology
School of Psychology
POLL: What specialization are you pursuing?
Objectives

• Prepare for the Field Experience portion of your degree program
• Provide strategies on how to conduct a proactive Field Experience search
• Market yourself and Walden University
• Develop a step-by-step plan to land your Field Experience site
Why Field Experience?
Purpose of Field Experience

• Fulfillment of program requirements
• Preparation for licensure
• Development of clinical and counseling skills
  – psychological assessment
  – case conceptualization
  – treatment methods
  – treatment outcome monitoring
• Experience with specific client populations
Internship and Practicum Requirements

• For Practicum:
  – Completion of the AYR or in last term of AYR
  – Approved practicum application
  – Completion of all prerequisite courses

• For Internship:
  – Completion of all coursework
  – Completion of practicum
  – Approved internship application
The Field Experience Process

- Submit the Registration Intent form to: psycfieldtraining@waldenu.edu
- Submit complete application by the deadline
- Field Education Coordinator (FEC) and Field Placement Coordinator (FPC) will review your application
- If approved, the FEC will register you for Practicum or Internship
Psychology Learning Outcomes

• Psychology foundations
• Scholar-practitioner perspective
• Assessment and intervention techniques
• Diverse client populations
• Professional contributions to the field
Implications for Long-Term Career Success

Internship and Practicum experiences allow for...

• Networking opportunities
• Mentoring relationships
• Professional references
• Practical experience
Target Your Field Experience Site
Proactive Field Experience search means…

Using networking, online search, and informational meetings to prepare and market your unique brand!
Tap Into Your Walden University Network

- Review list of past and current Walden student placements in your area
- Contact your Field Placement Coordinator
- Connect with other students
Research Field Experience Sites

- Yellow Pages/Google
- Local college and university websites
- Websites
- Site visits
- APPIC – Online Directory
- Professional associations – state and local chapters (APA, APAGS, ACA)
- Listservs
- Social media
Get the Inside Scoop on Site Supervisors

- Facility websites
- Google search
- Social media presence
- Professional associations/groups
Site Supervisors Who Meet Field Experience Requirements

For practicum….
• Doctoral level psychologist
• Licensed, certified or qualified in jurisdiction where they practice
• At least three years of post-licensure experience

For internship….
• Two doctoral level psychologists for supervision
• Licensed, certified or qualified in jurisdiction where they practice
• Present at the training facility 20+ hours a week
• In good standing with the licensure board
• At least three years of post-licensure experience
Other Considerations

• Secondary site supervisors
• Assumption of Risk statements
• State licensure board requirements
• Field Experience Manual:
  http://inside.waldenu.edu/c/Student_Faculty/StudentFaculty_953.htm
Communicate Your Personal “Brand”
POLL: Do You Know Your Personal Brand?
Define Your Brand

What is unique about YOU?

- Interests/skills/personality/values
- Academic achievements
- Related volunteer/work experience
- Professional contributions
- Community involvement
- Specialized knowledge
Market Walden University

- Social change mission
- Qualified faculty
- Diverse global perspective
- National (and international) student population
- Residency experience
- Rigorous curriculum
Find Your Match
Is There a FIT?

- What values and contributions can you bring to the site?
- What knowledge and skills will be most useful?
- Do your qualifications match their needs?
- Will you fit in with the people/culture?
Expert Advice on Trainee Selection
Winning Application Materials
Sample Letter of Intent:
Contact Information

Jacqueline C. Thompson
XXXX State Street
Detroit, MI  48201
(XXX) XXX-XXXX
JacquelineC2@waldenu.edu

May 12, 2011

Jack Stevens, LPC
Lawrence Mental Health Facility
XXX Raymond Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201

Dear Mr. Stevens:

[Signature]
This serves as my letter of intent for a Practicum and/or Internship at your training site in order to complete my PhD in Psychology professional practice requirements. I am impressed with your reputation as a leading provider of mental health services in the Detroit area since 1978.

I am currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Walden University, a regionally accredited institution committed to academic excellence. Faculty at Walden University are scholar-practitioners with credentials from top national universities. I have achieved a 4.0 GPA and completed doctoral level coursework in intervention, psychotherapy, psychological assessment and testing, psychopathology, ethics, and additional courses provided upon request.
I bring knowledge of individual counseling, group counseling, interviewing, observation, psychotherapy, diagnosis, assessment, multicultural counseling, and psychological testing in cognition and personality. I have volunteered at a domestic crisis center for over a year and I am certified in domestic violence advocacy. My technology, organizational and communication skills acquired during ten years of prior administrative experience will also help me contribute to your team of psychologists.

As I approach the end of my doctoral program, I am eager and ready to apply theory to practice. Enclosed you will find my curriculum vitae, a detailed description of the PhD in Psychology program at Walden University, and Field Experience requirements.
I greatly appreciate your consideration of my application. If you have additional questions regarding requirements for the Practicum or Internship, Walden University, or the PhD in Psychology program, you may contact the Field Education Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer Hanson, at psycfieldtraining@waldenu.edu. I’m looking forward to further discussing internship and/or practicum opportunities at your facility.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline C. Thompson
Curriculum Vitae (CV)

• A biographical description of a person’s educational and work background

• Highlights academic-related qualifications

• Typically longer in length than a resume

• Curriculum Vitae Guide available on Career Services Center site, ‘Resumes’ Tab: http://careercenter.waldenu.edu/839.htm

(Jackson and Geckeis, 1998)
Outshine Your Competition!

A career portfolio:

- Sets you apart from other applicants
- Leaves a lasting impression
- Allows the site to learn more about you
- Includes accomplishments and achievements to reference during an interview
Create Your Portfolio

- Letter of Intent
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Application Papers and Assignments
- Coursework
- Dissertation Topic (if applicable)
- Program of Study
- Example of a Walden Classroom (your materials only)
Create Your Portfolio

• Walden University Information: http://www.waldenu.edu/About-Us/18870.htm

• Psychology Program Information: http://www.waldenu.edu/Degree-Programs/Doctorate/PhD-in-Psychology.htm

• Field Experience Manual: http://ecampus.waldenu.edu/c/Student_Faculty/StudentFaculty_953.htm

• Letters of Recommendation
Interviewing
Share Your SMART Stories

Situation

More

Action

Results

Tie-In

(Whitcomb, 2008)
Sample SMART Story

• In 2007, I volunteered at Lawrence House, a facility for mentally ill and chemically dependent adults. During my time there, I recruited 10 patients to plant a permanent vegetable garden at the facility. My initiative helped promote physical activity, healthy eating, and sustainability. As an intern at your facility, I hope to practice assessment and intervention activities under supervision to further help mentally ill adults take initiative in their daily lives and ameliorate their conditions.
Practice Potential Interview Questions
Other Considerations
## Top 5 Search Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Search</th>
<th>Field Experience Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>#1 Take inventory on what you have to offer and what you’re looking for</strong></td>
<td>Take a holistic approach to your search (identify interests/skills, goals, environments, sites, and people; market your brand, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#2 Working with others, identify subjects or fields of interest to you</strong></td>
<td>Build a network of psychology professionals and ask for their input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#3 By yourself, identify and contact organizations via phone or site visit</strong></td>
<td>Research sites and contact via phone or site visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#4 Knock on door whether there is a vacancy or not</strong></td>
<td>Reach out to sites that interest you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#5 Ask your network for leads</strong></td>
<td>Ask psychology professionals in your network about field experience openings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Bolles, 2009)
Gear Up for Your Search

• Create a powerful introduction:  
  http://www.internships.com/student/resources/prep/videointro/video-example

• Practice SMART stories

• Strengthen your online presence:  
  www.linkedin.com

• Build field experience search skills:  
  http://www.quintcareers.com/internship_tutorial/
A Step-by-Step Approach
Create Your Action Plan

- Contact site supervisor directly (phone or in-person)
- Arrange an informational meeting
  - Face to face
  - Phone
  - Skype
- Provide targeted application materials
Create Your Action Plan

• Reach out to the Field Education Coordinator (she will follow up with the site)
• Practice mock interviewing
• Meet with site supervisor (share stories, ask questions, bring articles, express interest)
• Leave your career portfolio
• Follow up (thank you letter, email, phone)
• Land the practicum/internship!
Still Need Ideas?

- Tell everyone you know you are searching
- Join special interest groups related to your field
- Ask experts for advice
- Expand your search
- Be open to new settings and populations
- Improve your professional image
- Practice, practice, practice!
Contact Us
Internship/Practicum Assistance:
Field Education and Field Placement Coordinators

• Jennifer Hanson and Dr. Rodney Ford: psycfieldtraining@waldenu.edu
Career-related Assistance

• Career Services Center website: http://careercenter.waldenu.edu
  – Resources and Resumes & CVs tabs
  – “Field Experience and Volunteer Opportunities”
  – Archived webinars (social media, LinkedIn, etc)
  – Blog
  – WU Career Services Center LinkedIn Group
  – Individual and group advising
• Email us: careerservices@waldenu.edu
Looking to advance in your career? Transitioning to a new job? Enhancing your professional development and network? We’re here to help you navigate your career journey! We encourage you to set goals and assume active stewardship of your career progress from the very start of your academic program.

The Career Services Center offers

- paths to self-knowledge;
- resources for job opportunities and career information;
- resume and curriculum vitae tips;
- guidance on networking and branding;
- strategies to help you prepare for interviews and land the job

Click the link below to view the Career Services Center Overview Video
Learn More!
Join Our LinkedIn Group!

Walden University Career Services Center

Start a: Job Discussion

Start a job discussion or share something with the group...

Recent Activity

Dina Bergren, M.A. Day Treatment Therapist or Clinical Trainee - Winona, MN

Applicant must hold current licensure as a mental health professional in MN & be third party billable OR be on a clinical licensure track and obtaining supervision hours. Candidates must have a passion for and experience...

5 minutes ago • Like • Comment • Delete • Flag
Explore Psychology LinkedIn Groups

- Psychology Network (21,300+ members)
- Psychologists, Coach, Psychotherapists, and Counselors (20,800+ members)
- School Psychology (1,300+ members)
- The Clinical Psychology Network (1,200+ members)
- Counseling Psychology Early Professionals (900+ members)
- Assistance & Trainee Clinical Psychologists (290+ members)
References

Bolles, R. N. (2009). The job-hunter’s survival guide: How to find hope and rewarding work, even when “there are no jobs.” United States: Ten Speed Press.

Internships.com is a site for students seeking internship advice: http://www.internships.com/student


Questions
Thank you for coming!