

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department
Mental Health Practicum Program
www.hcjpd.org

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) in Houston, TX provides services to youth ages 10 to 17, and is committed to providing quality training to graduate students in the fields of psychology, counseling, and social work. Our ultimate goal is to assist the student in learning how to act competently, respectfully, ethically, and empathically in the delivery of mental health services while being ever cognizant of the cultural and individual diversity of the clients being served. This includes an understanding of issues related to multiculturalism, underserved populations, and juvenile delinquency, as well as an awareness of professional issues and ethical standards.

Practicum settings (choose one)

- 1 Psychological and Social Services (PSS)** – The primary training site will be at the Juvenile Justice Center in downtown Houston, which houses approximately 120 youth in the detention center. This program provides Masters level practicum and internship students the opportunity to apply crisis management, de-escalation, group, and individual counseling skills with our adolescent population housed in the detention facility. Primary responsibilities include conducting initial interviews, review case files to discover the most critical needs of the youth to address while in our care, and following up on youth who need daily therapeutic interaction. Due to the nature of our population, clinical documentation training is a key element of the internship. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the legal process our youth are going through and be able to observe court sessions. Usual referrals to PSS include anger, grief, self-harm, suicidal thinking, past psychiatric hospitalizations and/or medication and trauma. An LPC-Supervisor will provide at least one hour of weekly supervision. ***A two semester commitment is required. Interested students must be available Monday-Friday at least 3 days per week. Advanced interns may earn hours on the weekends.*** Applications are accepted for January, May, and August placement- see timeline for respective deadlines. Interested applicants should send a Curriculum Vita or Resume to Mrs. Adrienne Trevino at adrienne.trevino@hcjpd.hctx.net.

<i>PSS Timeline is as follows:</i>	<i>Applications Due</i>	<i>Interviews Held</i>
Fall Semester Start:	end of May	June
Spring Semester Start:	end of September	October
Summer Semester Start:	end of February	March

***Please note that all PSS services are provided **in-person**. In response to COVID-19, screening processes are required to enter the building. PPE is provided by the internship site.

- 2. Forensic Unit** – The primary training site will be at the Juvenile Justice Center in downtown Houston. The duties of a practicum student in this setting involve conducting psychological evaluations and report writing. Students will conduct brief psychological screenings and and/or full psychological assessments and be responsible for writing comprehensive reports. These evaluations are used to help clarify diagnoses and to determine appropriate placement and treatment goals. Clients are referred for assessments due to concerns raised by mental health providers, probation staff, attorneys, and judges, and are often court-ordered evaluations. As a result, these evaluations are frequently utilized by the judges to make decisions regarding the

youth. A wide variety of assessment instruments including intellectual, achievement, objective, and projective measures are available for use at HCJPD. Students will receive at least one hour per week of individual supervision from a licensed psychologist. This experience is primarily for advanced Doctoral level students and it is expected that the student will commit to this site from August to May. However, Master's level students who have received training in psychological test administration might be considered for the spring semester. Applications for the Doctoral level positions are accepted in February; applications for Master's level positions are accepted in the fall. Interested applicants should send a Curriculum Vita to Dr. Nicole Dorsey at nicole.dorsey@hcjpd.hctx.net.

We believe that a training experience with HCJPD can be personally and professionally enriching, yet also challenging. It is important to be aware that, in this setting, practicum students might be working in a secure setting, with youth who have the potential to be aggressive and who often have a variety of mental health issues. While we strive to ensure the safety of all staff, students, and youth, it is always important to be aware of the risks involved in working in such a setting.

All practicum students for our site will be required to complete a background check. Students cannot have any felonies for the past 10 years or any misdemeanors for the past 5 years. In addition, all students will be required to attend a 2-hour orientation to our department.

We appreciate your interest in our site and we look forward to the possibility of working with you. For any additional questions, please email any of the individuals listed above or contact Dr. Nicole Dorsey at 713-222-4257.