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STUDENT LEARNING & PRACTICE PROGRAM

For Advanced Graduate Student Clinical Internships & Practicum Placements

Overview: Walk-In Counseling Center offers the STUDENT LEARNING & PRACTICE PROGRAM (SLPP), a comprehensive, intentional program for student internships and practicum placements. Walk-In will accept 12-15 students in a school year, striving for balance in our student roster between social work, psychology and marriage & family. Most students seek an internship/practicum September – May; some placements begin in May. We will negotiate with the student based on their need.

Requirements for Incoming Students:

- Enrolled in an advanced degree program (MA, MSW, MS, PhD, PsyD) in social work, psychology or marriage and family therapy, or a dual disorder integrated program;
- For most students this would be a second year (clinical) practicum or field placement
- Preferable candidates will have 5+ years of experience working in the mental health/social services field
- Because we have few client contact opportunities other than clinical counseling, undergraduate students or first year graduate students do not qualify for this placement.

Application Process:

- 1) Student will ensure that Walk-In Counseling Center is an approved site for their educational institution.
- 2) Student will complete a Walk-In application available on the website. Ideally, these applications will be submitted in the spring for the upcoming fall term.
- 3) Each application will be screened according to the above criteria. Those meeting the criteria will be invited for an interview with the Clinic Director. Acceptance into Walk-In's program will be based on: a) the above requirements; b) student's experience, interview, references and schedule flexibility; c) Walk-In's openings on our student roster.
- 4) Students will participate in an orientation prior to the beginning of any client work.

Our Commitment to Students:

- 1) Walk-In Counseling Center values and fosters a learning environment for all of our volunteers, staff, students and, ultimately, clients. In accepting a student for an internship/practicum placement, we commit to her/his learning and professional development.
- 2) Students will be on at least one and usually several walk-in teams. Teams meet biweekly, and, depending on the type of placement, in order for the student to receive enough placement hours, participation on several teams may be required. Students will see clients during the walk-in clinic, and also see returning, ongoing clients by appointment. Because there are walk-in clinics in the day and evening, and clients are seen by appointment according to the client/counselor schedule, preferable candidates will have flexibility in their schedule to fulfill these expectations.

- 3) Walk-In uses a team model. In addition to the clinical supervision offered to the student (which is separate from their team assignment), students will participate on a team with volunteer counselors, receptionist and a team consultant. Each walk-in shift includes a team meeting, facilitated by the team consultant, during which different perspectives, client situations and therapeutic assessments are shared. All team members typically benefit greatly from these interactions. Students are expected to participate actively and offer knowledge gained through other experience and through their education programs.
- 4) Students will be given a short bibliography of books or articles to read during their placement at Walk-In Counseling Center.
- 5) Students as Teachers: Students are encouraged to find opportunities at Walk-In to share their experiences and knowledge with others. This may include a brief presentation to the team, the administrative staff or through an outreach opportunity in the community. Talk with your team consultant or the clinic director if you are interested in exploring this.

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