

Student Internship/Practicum Information Sheet

General Information: ACGC, a trauma-informed organization, is a premier outpatient mental health counseling agency, founded over 65 years ago, that provides affordable evidence-based therapy, walk-in clinic, psychological assessments and psychiatric evaluations to children and their families. We are made up of a multi-disciplinary team of psychologists, psychiatric nurses, family therapists, professional counselors, and social workers. ACGC provides mental health services in English and Spanish, as well as other languages upon request. We work with children and their families who have experienced trauma, including race based, immigration, and family violence. Also, we help children cope better or overcome anxiety and depression, as well as improve behaviors that might be causing them problems at school and/or home.

Clinical Counseling Placement: This placement requires students to carry a caseload of individual, family and group therapy clients. Additionally, students will be assisting with intake and case management services.

Infant Early Childhood (IEC) Clinical Placement: This placement requires students to carry a small caseload of individual, family and group therapy clients. Additionally, they will provide mental health consultation services to local childcare centers. The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Project (IEC) project was created as a direct response to the high number of child suspensions and expulsions from child development centers, designed to decrease expulsions and to enhance the social and emotional development of children ages 0-5. The primary focus of the IEC placement is to provide consultation to staff and parents in child development centers that serve high-need families. Students will collaborate with early childhood staff and families to prevent challenging behaviors and enhance the social and emotional development of the children in the center. You will gain specialized knowledge in infant and early childhood mental health and learn to provide multiple levels of intervention in a unique setting.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduate level social work students in their final practicum/ internships
- Able to start placement at the beginning of Fall semester
- Possess at least one course in family, individual OR group therapy
- Previous work/practicum experience using psychotherapy skills
- Coursework/work/personal experience related to children and adolescent development
- Able to commit to 15-20 hours/week for at least two semesters

Preferred Qualifications:

- **Bilingual Spanish/English proficiency**
- Possess at least one course in family, individual AND group therapy
- Previous work/practicum using psychotherapy skills with children and adolescent development

Training & Supervision: During their time at ACGC, students will develop a deep understanding of how to work with children ranging from age 2 to 17, and their families. They will have a chance to provide individual, family and group therapy in a supportive, clinically rich environment. They will learn about theoretical modalities, including: cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT), solution focused therapy (SFT), parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) and others. They will also learn about ACGC's intake process, and the case management services provided to crime survivors.

Also, students are offered weekly individual supervision and group supervision. They attend a Student Seminar weekly where they are trained on topics such as: safety planning, treating non-suicidal self-injury, cultural competency & cultural responsiveness in therapy, using self-disclosure in therapy, race-based trauma, treating



anxiety, depression, trauma, and intervention to address parent-child relational problems and child behavioral challenges. **These trainings are valued at over \$1,500.** Additionally, students will participate in Interdisciplinary Case Staffing meetings.

Requirements: Students are accepted in the Spring for a Fall start. Students must commit to three semesters (Fall, Spring and Summer), working at least 10 hours during the Fall Semester and 15-20 hours in the Spring and Summer semesters. If students have a client caseload in the Fall, they are asked to take no more than a 2-week winter break for continuity of care.

Stipends & Other Financial Assistance: To promote more inclusion and diversity within professional mental health fields and ACGC, as well as honor the work our students provide to the community, ACGC aims to provide stipends. The size of these stipends is dependent on available funds. ACGC will also collaborate with students and their universities if other financial aid resources are available and align with ACGC’s mission, values, and strategic goals, this includes **Federal Work-Study Programs.**

Time Commitment:

Clinical Counseling Placement

What	When	
Caseload up to 8 individual, family, and group therapy clients	Flexible schedule is available, but some evenings and in-person availability	Required
Schedule/complete intake assessment(s) and provide some case management services	Flexible schedule is available	Required

IEC Clinical Placement

What	When	
Caseload up to 4 individual, family, and group therapy clients	Flexible schedule is available, but some evenings and in-person availability	Required
Serve up to 2 child development centers with 6-7 hours of mental health consultations/week	Two weekday mornings and one afternoon/ week in addition to Thursday	Required

All Placements

What	When	
Student Orientation	Last week in August	Required
All Staff Meeting	1 st Thursday/ month from 11am- noon	Required
Interdisciplinary Case Staffing	1 st & 3 rd Thursday/ month from 10-11am	Required
Individual Supervision	1 hour weekly; day/time determined collaboratively	Required
Group Supervision	1 hour/ week on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30pm	Required
Seminar (Didactic Training)	1 hour/ week on Thursday from 12:30-1:30pm	Required
Walk-in Clinic Participation	Tuesdays from 3:30-6:30pm	Recommended

If you would like to be considered for an interview with ACGC, please email the following documents to internships@austinchildguidance.org.

1. **Professional/Academic Resume**
2. **Cover Letter** (Indicate if you are applying for: Clinical Counseling Placement, Infant and Early Childhood Placement, or both.)
3. **Two Professional Recommendation Forms** (For example the student’s first year, on-site field supervisor or grad school professor.)