

Missouri State University Practicum Site Questionnaire

Name of site Springfield Public Schools – School Psychology department

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Your Site

Description of the activities that occur at your site:

Springfield Public Schools' School psychologists complete the social/emotional/behavioral component of the special education evaluation, review the findings with parents at the diagnostic conference, write a report and assist with the IEP. They also conduct Functional Behavioral Assessments and use that information to assist school personnel in writing Behavioral Intervention Plans. Assessment requires classroom observations, the administration of checklists, interviews and file reviews. They assist school personnel in determining if disciplinary infractions are related to the student's disability.

The consultation with teachers that school psychologists do often requires classroom observations, the development of interventions as well as meetings with school staff and parents. Occasionally school psychologists develop and present in-service training on topics relative to mental health conditions or specific aspects of behavior. They supervise bachelor level Behavioral Technicians who actually provide one-on-one direct service to students experiencing significant behavioral issues. They communicate with outside mental health professionals for the purpose of coordinating efforts and information regarding particular students.

These activities are available to students who avail themselves of the practicum or internship offered by the Springfield Schools' school psychologists.

Description of practicum students' duties at your site:

Undergraduates have the opportunity to accompany a school psychologist to IEP meetings, evaluations, intelligence assessment administrations, consultation with teachers, classroom observations, social skills groups, outside agency meetings and Behavior Intervention Plan meetings. Additionally, they have the opportunity to review files, work individually with students, develop interventions and research specific topics. They are asked to assist with the scoring of behavioral checklists.

Graduate students are asked to assume more responsibility for the assessment of social, emotional and behavioral skills. They may be assigned a student who needs a complete Functional Behavioral Assessment and a Behavior Intervention Plan. They may have the opportunity to lead a social skills group. They might be asked to develop and present a short in-service on a topic with which they are familiar or work therapeutically with specific students.

Type of population with which students would be working (e.g., adults, adolescents, children, physically challenged, cognitively challenged, etc.):

Practicum students have access to students with a variety of disabilities, age ranges from 3 years through high school age and cognitive levels. They also have access to the nondisabled population. Given the family involvement inherent in the practice of school psychology, they will also have access to some adults with significant social or emotional issues.

Our Students

Undergraduates

Our undergraduate students typically are juniors and seniors with 17-35 credit hours in Psychology. There are exceptions. If you have any special requirements for students who apply at your practicum site, please describe them.

We would like to limit our involvement to undergraduates who are interested in school psychology as a possible career.

Graduate Students

Our graduate students are students at the end of their first year or some time during their second year in the clinical track of our graduate psychology program. These students need direct service contact with clients, and also need weekly supervision from a licensed mental health professional. Is your site interested in working with our graduate students?

Our site could provide needed experience for psychology graduate students with an interest in children or adolescents.

The school psychology staff is made up of 3 Ph.D. level school psychologists, 2 doctoral level licensed clinical psychologists and 1 licensed professional counselor.

Hours, Pay, and Commitment

Days and time of days on which you need practicum students:

Is this a paid practicum? Yes _____ No X

If yes, what is pay rate? _____

What length of commitment (e.g., semester, three months, six months), do you expect from the student?

We have provided practicum experience for undergraduate students for a semester or for one needed experience (i.e., a social skills group).

The most preferable experience for graduate students is a practicum served throughout the school year (August to May).

Background checks and fingerprinting of practicum students (at student's expense) are required.

Application Process

What is the preferred application process (e.g., email/mail resume/schedule an appointment)?

The initial contact can be by phone or e-mail. We will need a resume before we schedule an interview. We make the decision to accept a student after the interview.

Please provide any other information that would be useful in helping our students to make more informed choices.

We cannot provide experiences during July or the first weeks of August. Limited experiences are available on Friday or after 3:00 for undergraduates. Graduate students could accumulate experiences on Friday but direct services for students are unavailable after 3:00.

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