

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 standardized cognitive tests, checklists, interviews and file reviews. School psychologists also assist school personnel in determining if disciplinary infractions are related to the student's disability.

In order to provide consultative services to teacher, school psychologists engage in classroom observations, the selection 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. School psychologists communicate with mental health service providers within the community for the purpose of coordinating efforts and information regarding particular students.

Due to the scope of practicum experiences inherent in school psychology, and the number of buildings and wide range of ages served; practicum students are expected to commit to an entire school year for this practicum. In addition, prior to commencement of the practicum experience, students are expected to

complete a paperwork package and to cover all associated costs with this paperwork, including costs of background checks and fingerprinting.

Description of practicum students' duties at your site:

Graduate students are expected to have the foundational coursework in psychopathology, human/child development, assessment, and report writing to be able to participate in the assessment of social, emotional and behavioral skills. Students may be assigned a student who needs a complete Functional Behavioral Assessment and a Behavior Intervention Plan. Students may have the opportunity to participate in the facilitation of a social skills group. They also 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 (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 graduate students who have the aforementioned foundational coursework, and who can commit to an entire school year for practicum.

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 the aforementioned foundational coursework, and who can commit to an entire school year for practicum.

The school psychology staff is made up of 2 Ph.D. level school psychologists, 1 specialist level school psychologist, 1 doctoral level licensed clinical psychologist, 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?

The required time commitment for graduate students is a practicum served throughout the school year (August to May).

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

The initial contact can be by phone or e-mail. Students should be prepared to bring a resume or vita to the scheduled 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 week of August.

Thank You!

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Thank you for your help in working with our students.

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