

PRACTICUM SITES
(Non-Autism)

How to find potential sites:

You are free to contact any particular site you may have interest in. If you have no ideas, you might simply look through the phonebook, or online, under categories such as “mental health,” “human services,” “community services,” “youth services,” “education,” etc. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of potential sites in the West Michigan area.

The GVSU Career Services Office is another important resource and has information about many possible sites. You can drop in their office or look through posted material on their website (www.gvsu.edu/careers). You will need the password, lakerjobs, to initiate your personal account.

A specific manuscript offered by the Career Services Office, entitled *Entry level employers of psychology majors* lists over 20 specific employers, each of which might provide valuable practicum experience.

You might choose to contact one of the sites where recent practicum students have been placed:

PineRest Psychological Services, psychological consultation center, with Katie VanSolkema. (Katie.vansolkema@pinerest.org, 616-281-6363, ext. 2493). [ADHD assessments]

Center for Women in Transition with Valerie Helgren (valH@aplaceforwomen.org). [domestic violence shelter]

Kentwood Public Schools with school psychologist Jeff Ashby (698-9292, ext. 41415). [cognitive and academic assessment]

DeVos Children's Hospital with Steve Pastyrnak, Ph.D. [classic child clinical setting. More assessment than treatment] (Steve.Pastyrnak@devoschildrens.org).

YWCA (Grand Rapids) – [sexual assault prevention and intervention]

Catholic Social Services – [fundraising for, and management of, wide range of human service initiatives]

Bethany Christian Services – [variety of options including work with child and adolescent sexual offenders]

Allendale Public School System with Melanie Hook hookmel@allendale.k12.us, 616-902-5585 – [special education/school psychology]

Touchstone Innovare with Suzanne Brainard – [work with chronic mentally ill population]

Mary Free Bed with Deb Webb Brewer (deb.brewer@maryfreebed.com) - [opportunity to work with child life specialist]

Network 180 with Jim Lowther (jiml@network180.org) – [Network 180 is the access point, and accepts all crisis calls, for state mental health agencies in W. Michigan]

Children's Assessment Center (GR and Holland) – [child abuse investigations]

Lutheran Social Services – [foster care agency]

OAR House in Holland – [a halfway house for females recovering from drug abuse/addiction]

Child and Family Resource Council (454-4673) – [parent and family education]

Hackley Behavioral Health

Psychiatric Hospital: shadow/observe mental health professionals working with acute psychopathology 231-728-5787 Pam Howard

BRAINS

Private Psychological practice providing broad range of psychological and other mental health related services: mix of observation and “hands on” experiences
616-365-8920 Andrea Rotzien, Ph.D.

Careerline Tech Center

Counseling office within a “trade school”: shadow and work with therapist providing services to student population.
1-877-702-8601 (ext. 4314) gflom@oaisd.org Guy Flom

Children & Women in Transition (CWIT)

Domestic violence shelter/services 616-494-1724
hollyw@aplaceforwomen.org Holly Wilson

Bethany Christian Services: Refugee Relocation Services

Provide range of services for political refugees moving into this country
616-574-7932 sbolman@bethany.org S. Bolman

Grandville Public Schools: Transition Program

Work in program for special education students between, roughly, 13 and 26
616-254-6595 bdomina@gpsk12.net Bryant Domina

Ramoth House

Domestic violence shelter/services 616-452-6664
sstachon@safehavenministries.org Sara Stachon Durham

Project Rehab

Substance abuse treatment 616-776-0891 (118)
PaulRafferty@projectrehab.org Paul Rafferty

Arbor Circle

Community Mental Health-type placement: variety of placement options.
616-456-6571 jhill@arborcircle.org Janelle Hill

Bethany Christian Services: Life Skills Program

Services to children and adolescents "at risk" 616-254-7712
jbeene@bethany.org Justin Beene

Ken-o-sha preschool/school

Special education placement with children with acute disabilities ShivelyB@grps.k12.mi.us B. Shively

Arbor Circle Early Childhood & women's services 616-456-6571 cchaney@arborcircle.org Cristina Chaney

GVSU Peer Education: This program is not available to spring/summer students. This program requires a fall and winter commitment. There is a stipend (\$\$\$) available for the second semester. Though more demanding, this is an excellent opportunity for students to not only observe, but to develop valuable skills and experience. If interested, please contact Mary Sharp at the GVSU counseling center.

You may also choose to explore opportunities at sites which have, in the more distant past, offered practicum experiences to GVSU students:

Clinically Related Practicum Sites:

Related to Children:

Allegan Cty Prevention of Child Abuse/ Neglect Council – advocacy programs for child victims
Children's Assessment Center (Holland) – child abuse investigations
Children and Family Resource Council – parent education, family workshops

Related to Adolescents:

Goodwill Industries of Grand Rapids, Inc.
Hope Network Behavioral Health Services
Kent Cty Circuit Court – Family Division; adolescents doing commty service & probation
Ottawa Cty Juvenile Detention – requires 300 hours; adolescents with many problems
Park School – high school minority girls who are pregnant
Pine Rest – Birch Lodge East & West – adolescent boys
Pine Rest – Maple Lodge South & North – adolescent girls
Pine Rest Residential Care – adolescent boys & girls living out of the home
Wedgwood Christian Services – residential and inpatient units for boys and girls

Related to Adults:

Franciscan Life Process Center
Kent County 61st District Court Domestic Assault Response Team
Network 180 (formerly Cornerstone CMH) – crisis line work
Pine Rest – Adult Residential – psychiatric care for adult residents with many conditions
Pine Rest Developmental Center – all kinds of conditions represented incl. autism,
Safe Haven Ministries – domestic violence

School Related:

Ionia County Intermediate School – working with school psychologist
Jefferson Elementary School – working with school counselor
Kentwood Public Schools – working with school psychologist
Ottawa Area Intermediate School District – working with school consultant
West Ottawa Public Schools – working with school psychologist

Non-clinical Practicum Sites:

American Red Cross – in HR Office, I/O position
Area Community Services Employment & Training Council
Clark Retirement Community
Girl Scouts of MI Trails – non-clinical, focused on adolescent girls, leadership development
Michigan Law Enforcement Consultants
Pine Rest – HR Office – I/O position
Porter Hills – HR Office – I/O position

GVSU Related

GVSU Admissions Office – I/O type position
GVSU Student Services

Additionally, I am in communication with a few specific-interest sites and will update you if and when these become available. As you begin to contact organizations, please adhere to the following recommendations. Identify yourself as an undergraduate psychology student at Grand Valley State University. Note that you have been accepted into the department's practicum program for the spring/summer or fall semester, describe why you are interested in the particular site, and ask if you might be able to speak with someone about existing practicum options or about the possibility of creating such an opportunity. (It might help to remind them that this is a voluntary experience.) In the past, this process has worked very well for students.

Often, potential supervisors will want to meet with you. If you arrange such an interview, be sure to dress professionally and be prepared to provide the interviewer with an updated resume and a statement of your interest in the site. If you need or want assistance building your resume, the Career Services Office at GVSU provides weekly workshops and can also meet individually with students.