



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Psychology 490 Practicum Application

Bryan Bolea, Ph. D.
Practicum Director

Please check with Dr. Bolea regarding application due dates
at boleab@gvsu.edu

Psychology 490 - Practicum

Mission Statement

The purpose of Psychology 490 - Practicum is to serve as an avenue for motivated undergraduate psychology majors to obtain “real-world” experiences in psychology-related professional settings. The development of professional skills begins with the student contacting prospective sites and arranging for a semester-long experience that involves observation and participation in agency activities. In addition to cultivating professional relationships and learning about the complexities of those relationships, students have the opportunity to discover if a particular site experience matches their own strengths and interests. As a result, the practicum facilitates the decision-making process for students regardless of whether they are planning to get a job or attend graduate school post-baccalaureate. The practicum also contributes to the overall mission of GVSU by emphasizing and strengthening ties to the surrounding community. Students benefit by learning from professionals at area agencies and agencies gain by hosting inquisitive and energetic students who, in turn, affect the intellectual climate and activity levels of these community programs. See pages five and six of this document for a sampling of the local organizations that have hosted our practicum students.

Procedures

The first step in registering for Psychology 490 is to determine your eligibility for the practicum. In other words, are you sufficiently prepared to take on a placement in a community setting? You will get the most out of your placement (as will the organization) if you meet the following criteria:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Have a Psychology GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Have senior or late junior standing during the semester in which you do the practicum
- Have completed a minimum of 18 hours in Psychology
- Have completed Psychology 300 (Research Methods)
- Have taken the appropriate background courses for the type of placement that you want to do.

-For example, a student who wishes to do an Industrial/Organizational psychology practicum probably should have completed Psychology 445 (I/O Psychology) and Psychology 410 (Tests and Measurements) either prior to or concurrently with the placement since these classes assist the student in understanding the context of work in those settings and help give them the knowledge to make them successful in the placement.

-As another example, a student who is interested in working with adolescents in a clinical setting probably should have completed Psychology 303 (Psychopathology), Psychology 331 (Adolescent Development), and maybe Psychology 452 (Counseling Theories) either before or during the practicum for the same reasons – it gives the student a background to understand service delivery and ideas about what the professional issues are in that setting. The student would also be encouraged to take Psychology 324 (Developmental Psychopathology).

Once you have determined that you are prepared, you can apply to become part of the practicum. Since the above list does not represent formal prerequisites, the practicum director (me) will make the final decision about your eligibility for a specific placement in discussion with you. The steps in the application and admittance process are:

Step 1: Fill out a written application that provides me with your background information, interests, desires, career goals, etc. Please attach a degree analysis to the application so that I have a summary of your academic history. Turn in your completed application to Bryan Bolea, Ph. D. 2110 Au Sable Hall. An application form is attached to this document. **NOTE: Your application is only good for the semester that you apply for. If you don't do a practicum during that semester then you will need to reapply.**

Step 2: Once I receive your application I will review it to determine your eligibility. I will give you a call within a couple of weeks (after I receive your application) to set up a meeting with you. During this meeting we will verify your eligibility and determine some good placement sites for you. If we determine that you aren't quite ready for a practicum placement, I will provide you with a list of steps to take to become better prepared for a placement.

Step 3: Once we have determined that everything looks good, I will give you a list of contact names and phone numbers for sites that match your interests. Before calling the agency, you should have a resume in hand. It is a good idea to be prepared to apply and be interviewed by the agency director or designated staff member. Once you are ready, contact the site by telephone and ask about the possibility of spending 10 hours per week (140 hours per semester) at the site observing and working in a capacity related to your interests in the field. It may help to ask if they have a volunteer coordinator since often these are the persons responsible for working with practicum or internship students. If they are interested, ask for an interview. If you are invited for an interview, be sure to dress and act professionally. If the internship site is interested in taking you on and you are still interested in the site, the process of finalizing the agreement begins. I recommend that you contact Susan Simmerman in the Career Services Office over in the Student Services Building. She specializes in helping students prepare resumes and can even help you prepare for an interview by practicing and being videotaped. Developing these skills can only help you in your future career.

Step 4: Once you have secured a placement, please contact me to receive a Practicum Agreement Form. Take this form to your site supervisor. The supervisor should fill out page 1 and the top half of page 2. You should fill out the bottom of page 2 and return the form to me. I will review it to make sure that the site's expectations are consistent with our expectations. If I have any questions or need clarification then I will call the supervisor and discuss it with them. Once I am comfortable with my knowledge of what the site expects from you, then I will give you the permit that you need to register for the class.

Exception: Students who are interested in the Peer Education Practicum offered in conjunction with the Counseling Center need to notify me of that. I usually ask those students to still complete Steps 1 and 2 of this process, but steps 3 and 4 are not necessary. I will coordinate your placement at the Counseling Center with the Director of the Peer Ed Practicum in that site.

Possible Placement Sites:

Organizations That Have Hosted GVSU Psychology Students

The following are sites where GVSU students have been placed in previous practicum semesters. They are generally organized by type of placement. I have placed some quick notes where possible to assist you in making a decision about whether to contact that placement.

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
 DeVos Children's Hospital & DeVos with Child Life Specialist
 Lutheran Social Services – foster care agency
 Pine Rest ADD Institute & Consultation Center – assessment for ADHD
 Pediatric Behavioral Services - private practice child assessment, esp. ADHD

Related to Adolescents:

Peer Education Practicum (see next page) – 2nd semester working with High School students
 Bethany Christian Services
 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 ADD Institute (see above)
 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:

Peer Education Practicum (see next page) – 1st semester; workshops to GVSU students
 Center for Women in Transition – women survivors of domestic violence
 Franciscan Life Process Center
 Kent County 61st District Court Domestic Assault Response Team
 Network 180 (formerly Cornerstone CMH) – crisis line work
 OAR Harbor House – halfway house for females recovering from drug abuse (Holland)
 Pine Rest – Adult Residential – psychiatric care for adult residents with many conditions
 Pine Rest Developmental Center – all kinds of conditions represented incl. autism, Tay Sachs
 Safe Haven Ministries – domestic violence
 Shepherds of Independence – Adult residential care for adults with severe mental illness
 Touchstone-Innovare – treatment center for adults with severe mental illness
 YWCA of Grand Rapids – domestic violence and sexual assault

School Related:

Grand Haven Public Schools – working with school counselor
 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
 Peer Education Practicum (see below)

GVSU Peer Education Practicum, Counseling Center

The Peer Education program is a distinct type of practicum placement from the rest. This practicum lasts for an entire year and is focused on developing teamwork skills, presentation skills and confidence in public speaking, and in assisting with prevention efforts on campus and in local schools. The first semester, you mostly work with the Counseling Center's predoctoral interns to develop and carry out workshops, seminars, and requested presentations to GVSU students. In the second term, you extend those skills by visiting local schools to work with teens on understanding important issues and working to prevent problems from developing. During the second semester, your class attendance and project requirements are very reduced from the first semester.

If you are interested in the Peer Education Practicum, please speak with me about it specifically. You might also want to call Mary Sharp at the Counseling Center 331-3266. They also have their own application form, so do not fill out the following form if you want to do this practicum, but do call me to let me know you are interested in the practicum.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Application for Admission to the Psychology Practicum

Please complete application, **attach a copy of your degree analysis** and turn in to the Practicum Director, Dr. Bryan Bolea. Dr. Bolea will call you within a couple of weeks to set up an appointment with you. If you need to speak with him sooner, his extension is 1-2932 and his office is 2110 Au Sable Hall. **NOTE: Your application is only good for the semester that you apply for. If you don't do a practicum during that semester then you will need to reapply.**

NOTE: DO NOT LEAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BLANK.

DATE: _____ STUDENT #: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

ADVISOR: _____ E-MAIL _____

LOCAL ADDRESS: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

SEMESTER/YEAR THAT YOU WILL DO THE PRACTICUM: _____

1. What are your thoughts regarding short-term and long-term goals upon graduation?

1a. In what way will participation in the internship program help you meet your long- and/or short-term goals?

6. Do you have a preference for a particular type of internship placement? If so, please describe (e.g. mental health center, hospital, personnel dept., elementary school etc.).

7. (Optional) If you have any disabilities that would require special accommodation to allow you to be successful in the internship program, please consider including them here. Your answers to this question will NOT be shown to any practicum site, but may be very useful to assist both of us in reviewing potential placements and to help me be available to assist you in any way necessary.

8. Is there anything else that the practicum director should know about that could be relevant to the type of placement that you pursue?