

Are You Interested in Finding Your Own MA Practicum Site?

Q. Can I find my own practicum site?

A. You can collaborate with clinical training to develop a new practicum site. Students can identify preliminary information and partner with the clinical training department to determine if the organization can meet the training requirements. Students should begin working with the Clinical Training Department early in the process of identifying new practicum sites.

Q. What initial criteria must the site meet in order for me to propose it as a practicum site?

A. See the criteria listed here:

- The site must involve the student in direct clinical services (e.g., providing psychotherapy; testing and other assessment; case management) to clients.
- You must complete at least 500 total hours of MA practicum by the end of the school year. At least 25% of the total hours must consist of direct client contact.
- These remaining hours can include supervision, report writing, case conferences, and a variety of other experiences that do not involve direct meetings with a client.

Q. I hear the site needs to be in an “integrated health care setting.” What is that?

A. To qualify as a practicum location, a site must be an integrated health care setting. An integrated health care setting includes at least one other healthcare-related professional from a discipline outside psychology (e.g., a counselor, social worker, physician, nurse, etc.).

Q. Who can supervise my work at the site?

A. Fully licensed psychologists (LPs), limited licensed psychologists (LLPs) or other licensed mental health clinicians (e.g., LMSWs or LPCs) may supervise students at their training sites.

Q. How frequently should I meet with my practicum site supervisor?

A. You should plan to meet with your practicum supervisor for a minimum of one hour in-person supervision per week. It is critical that you have regular, ongoing communication with your site supervisor!

Q. My proposed practicum site wants to pay me. Is that allowed?

A. Yes. If you are paid, however, it must be through a stipend specifically designated for training.

Q. May I engage in a practicum at a former employment site?

A. Generally, no. We have this rule in place in order to avoid dual relationships and to offer students new experiences.

Q. If I am finding my own practicum site, what else should I look for?

A. The site will need to offer you:

- A deepened understanding and respect for cultural diversity.
- An understanding of the important policies, procedures, and regulations which govern professional psychology practice within a healthcare setting.
- A mutually respectful and professional work environment.

Q. Does my prospective site need to be approved by MSP?

A. Yes, your prospective site needs to be approved by Clinical Training to ensure that your site meets the above-listed requirements. After identifying an organization that appears to qualify as a training site, you should provide contact information and a description of the site to facilitate follow-up by the Clinical Training Department.

Q. Where can I find additional information about practicum training requirements?

A. Please read through the MA Practicum Handbook, which can be found at:
<https://sites.google.com/msp.edu/student-resources/clinical-training-resources>