

Psychology Department Internship I

Definition

The University requires all undergraduate students to complete an internship program before graduating to be better prepared for their future careers. Internship I at the Bachelor of Arts Psychology is defined as a supervised “pre-professional, education experience, where students have an opportunity to enhance their theoretical knowledge” and enhance their knowledge and skills in areas of counseling, organizational, teaching and research skills necessary for their further independent work.

Purpose

The main goal of the Internship I is to help undergraduate students to gain practical skills related to their specializations in a real-world work setting such as in Centers for Personnel Consulting and Recruiting, HR departments, Institute for Behavioral Health and Applied Research (AUCA), National Center for Mental Health, Public Foundation/NGOs working with Parents and Children with special needs, crisis centers, schools, kindergartens or any other site which provides psychological support/services or consultation to public or specific populations. Internship experience should be in line with the student’s interest and within the goals of the program and with the student’s interest.

The purpose of the Internship I course is to provide supervision to the interns. The instructor of the Internship I is in the role of a faculty supervisor, or internal supervisor, is usually the faculty member who teaches the respective Internship I into which the student/intern is enrolled. The responsibilities of the internal supervisor include overseeing the overall internship experience and internship trajectory of the student, providing necessary guidance, communicating with the internship sites in order to ensure that quality of the internship experience for the student, and evaluating the student’s progress and as trainee. The students are required to attend scheduled classes and participate at the discussion of the literature review, approaches/methods applied at different internship areas.

Internship I is a 3 credit required course. Students are expected to find their internship site on their own and start Internship I during the third year of study during the Fall semester. Students/interns are expected to be engaged in internship experience for at least 10 hours a week. Students/interns are expected to complete a minimum of 90 hours of internship over the Internship I course. Students are encouraged to consult with faculty about their options regarding Internship I and also encouraged to use the Database available at the program website. Students are responsible for timely provision of the Internship Declaration Form (to be filled and submitted online using this link <https://forms.gle/3VXD9D9g9MUbYhrV8>.) and receive approval of the internal supervisor of the Internship I site prior to starting this course (end of August).

Objectives

Within Internship I students are expected to:

- learn about major possible career opportunities, duties and responsibilities among psychologists in their workplaces;
- learn to analyze professional approaches used by psychologist in practice;

- show the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real life situation;
- develop ability to analyze critically the work of professional psychologists, organization of psychological support/services or HR offices.
- apply acquired research skills in practical contexts;
- be able to carry out specific professional tasks under careful supervision of external supervisor;
- develop clear vision of their career opportunities as a psychologist.

Prerequisite courses

It is important to take into account that when selecting an internship site, you need to take the prerequisite courses for some of them. Below you can find more detailed information on prerequisite for some internship areas:

Internship areas	Prerequisite courses take be taken prior or during the Internship I (at least one from the courses listed below)
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/ THERAPY & COUNSELING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special psychology - Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis treatment I - Applied Behavior Analysis treatment II - Group counseling
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abnormal Psychology
HR PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market psychology - Industrial and Organizational Psychology - Intro to Management - Organizational Behavior - Human resource management
RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro to Probabilities and Statistics - Research Methods in Social Sciences - Psychological tests

Reporting

By the end of the internship I it is expected that interns will submit their reports that include:

- **Internship Diary** (daily report) describing:
 - Activities
 - Theoretical knowledge acquired
 - Practical skills obtained
 - Conclusions, notes and comments
- **Internship I report** (5 pages 1,5 space, with a separate title page and references)
 1. *Organization*. Describe the place you chose for conducting the internship. Explain your choice. Provide short information about the organization you chose and your supervisor.
 2. *Objectives*. Reflect on your objectives for the internship. Were they fulfilled or not? (Refer to your Declaration Form).
 3. *Literature review*. Describe main concepts, approaches, methods that helped to broaden your understanding of the actions of psychologist or specific activities that were undertaken at the internship site. Reflect on how you applied the theoretical knowledge you gained to the practical situations at your internship site.
 4. *Duties and responsibilities*. Describe the main duties of a psychologist in this organization.
 5. *Observation*. Describe the kind of psychologist's work you had a chance to observe

during your internship.

6. *Cases*. Provide an example of one or two cases you observed (conducting an interview with applicant for vacant position, recruiting first-year students to the elementary school, therapy session with a client/patient etc.)
 7. *Reflections*.
 - Comment on the actions of psychologist during specific activities and in general. Reflect on the theoretical underpinning of the observed actions. What recommendations would you provide for this psychologist?
 - Reflect on your overall impression from this type of internship at the particular site.
- **External Supervisor Evaluation Form**
 - **Presentation at the Internship Symposium**