



**Palm Beach County  
Youth Services Department  
Brochure**

**Doctoral Internship in Psychology  
2021-2022**



APPIC Program Code  
**142811**

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## **Youth Services Department**

*Mission Statement:* Growing brighter futures by providing quality services, education, and access to resources and opportunities.

*Vision:* Empowering youth and families to realize their full potential and be the driving force of a thriving community.

*Values:* Diversity & Equity, Compassion & Empathy,  
Open-mindedness, Commitment, Respect

The Doctoral Internship at the Youth Services Department is offered through the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division, which offers specialized programs to families who need professional support in their efforts to raise healthy functioning children. The Division strengthens families through competent, caring, and comprehensive services. The Division is committed to fostering healthy individual and family functioning in families where youth have been exposed to various forms of danger, harm, or loss. Without adequate protective factors, these youth are often at higher risk of entering the juvenile justice system, dropping out of school, getting involved with gangs, running away from home, substance use, and entering the child protective system. This goal is accomplished through family, group, and individual therapy, psycho-education, parent training, psychological evaluation, consultative services, and community outreach offered across community-based, office, and residential settings. Services are provided free to Palm Beach County residents.

The Division employs psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, residential counselors, and nurses. The agency is also an interdisciplinary training site for psychology postdoctoral fellows, psychology doctoral interns, psychology practicum students, social work interns, mental health counseling interns, and marriage and family therapy interns.

### **APPIC Membership Status**

The Youth Services Department doctoral psychology internship was created and became an Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) member in 2002, when the first class of 2 interns matriculated into the program. Each year, a cohort of 2 interns has participated in the internship, which in 2018 increased to a cohort of 4 interns participating in the program.

### **APA Accreditation Status**

The Youth Services Department doctoral psychology internship was awarded initial APA accreditation by the American Psychological Association, effective November 2016. The accreditation extends for a full seven years.

### **Training Model**

The internship integrates a practitioner-scholar model with psychological training and service delivery that is sequential, cumulative, and graded in complexity. The practitioner-scholar training model emphasizes the integration and application of critical thinking and skillful reflection across a broad range of experiential activities. By the end of the internship year, interns will be prepared with the knowledge, awareness, and skills of a practitioner specializing in youth and families. Our interns are well prepared for professional careers working with children and their families in a residential or outpatient setting who present with a wide range of concerns.

## **Goals and Objectives of the Internship**

The overall goal of the doctoral psychology internship program at the Youth Services Department is to support the development of graduate student psychology interns into professional psychologists. Psychology interns will develop fundamental skills consistent with the mission of the Youth Services Department. The internship program incorporates a developmental training model and a strengths-based perspective, which has been a cornerstone in the Division's philosophy of training as well as prevention and intervention work with children, adolescents, parents, and families. Additionally, Palm Beach County is a culturally, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse area, and psychology interns will have opportunities to work with a range of diverse populations with a variety of presenting issues.

It is expected that by the end of the internship year, interns will have accomplished the following goals:

Goal 1: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *evidence-based practice in intervention*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Case conceptualization and treatment planning
- Implementation of therapeutic interventions
- Crisis Intervention
- Therapeutic Skills

Goal 2: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *evidence-based practice in assessment*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Diagnostic Skill
- Instrument selection, administration, and scoring
- Test Interpretation
- Clinical Formulation
- Report Writing
- Communicating Results

Goal 3: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *interprofessional and interdisciplinary consultation*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Theories and Methods of Consultation

Goal 4: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *supervision*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Theories and Methods of Supervision
- Effective use of supervision
- Develop knowledge and skills providing clinical supervision

Goal 5: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *individual and cultural diversity*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Cultural awareness
- Effects of cultural considerations on clinical activities
- Evidence-informed approach to cultural considerations

Goal 6: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *research*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Application of scientific knowledge to practice

Goal 7: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *ethical and legal standards*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Knowledge of ethical, legal, and professional standards
- Adherence to ethical principles and guidelines

Goal 8: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *professional values and attitudes*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Professional awareness
- Interpersonal relationships
- Self-awareness
- Clinical documentation
- Case Management

Goal 9: Interns will achieve competence appropriate to their professional developmental level in the area of *communication and interpersonal skills*

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Provides clear and effective written communication
- Exemplifies respectful and professional interpersonal skills
- Presents scholarly information to an audience

### **Internship Expectations**

The Youth Services Department internship is a year-long, full-time doctoral internship experience. Interns are expected to complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of training during the year. Interns are also expected to achieve the goals and objectives of the internship program, and to abide by the APA Code of Ethics, the requirements of the training program as listed in the Handbook, and the policies and procedures of the Youth Services Department.

### **RTFC Division Structure**

The Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division (RTFC) is comprised of three sections: Highridge Family Center (residential), Education and Training (outpatient, training, and outreach), and Youth and Family Counseling (outpatient and school-based).

#### Highridge Family Center

Highridge Family Center is a 60-bed residential facility serving Palm Beach County youth between the ages of 11-16 and their families through the Sanctuary Model of trauma-informed care. Typically, the families seeking services through Highridge have been struggling with conflicted family relations, poor academics, disruptive school behavior, drug experimentation, poor peer group choices, minor law infractions, and emotional difficulties. In conjunction with the School District of Palm Beach County, residents of Highridge are provided alternative education while they are enrolled in the program. Referral sources include schools, parents, prevention and diversion programs, as well as former clients. The facility is divided into five (three male and two female) dormitory-style “houses,” each with the capacity for 12 residents. The youth live at the facility Monday through Friday, returning to their homes on weekends and school holidays to practice newly learned skills with their families. A therapist provides family, group, and individual therapy, and three residential counselors (two day shift, one night shift) provide structure and therapeutic milieu activities for the youth on each house.

#### Education and Training

The Education & Training Center is a community resource for primary prevention through education, training, and professional development, providing free services to parents, children, families, school personnel, and mental health professionals in Palm Beach County. Clinical staff includes licensed psychologists.

The Education & Training Center serves as a training site for doctoral interns, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral level practicum students. Family, individual (only age 18-22), and group therapy services are offered to families and youth up to age 22 utilizing brief therapy models. Parenting is also offered in individual and group formats. In addition, psychological evaluations may be provided to youth already involved in the agency’s clinical services. Families seek services for a variety of reasons, including behavioral disorders, school/academic problems, parent-child relational problems, adjustment to parental separation or divorce, grief/loss issues, abuse or neglect, and to fulfill requirements for diversion programs.

The Education & Training Center trainees and staff are also responsible for developing and implementing trainings, workshops, and community outreach activities and are approved to offer continuing education units to licensees in various mental health and nursing disciplines. Trainings are provided to schools, community agencies, as well as Bachelor’s level counselors and Master’s level therapists from the other Youth Services outpatient offices located throughout the county.

#### Youth and Family Counseling

The Youth & Family Counseling (YFC) Program is a three to four month community-based program that provides family, individual, and group therapy, parenting, psychoeducational school based groups, and on-site school based services for families with children and youth up to age 22 years of age. Families seek services to address many concerns, including behavioral disorders, school/academic problems, parent-child relational problems, adjustment to parental separation or divorce, grief/loss issues, abuse or neglect, and to fulfill requirements for diversionary programs. There are several area offices and satellite offices located throughout the county. YFC collaborates with community agencies, such as the School district of Palm Beach County and the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Courts (Family Violence Intervention Program). Clinical staff includes Master’s level therapists from various mental health fields.

To learn more about the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department’s Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division, please access the following link: <http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/counseling>. Additional information on the training programs can be found by visiting <http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter>.

## **Internship Rotations**

The internship offers 4 one-year, full-time placements. The psychology intern is required to complete 2000 hours, beginning on August 2, 2021, and continuing for one year. In accordance with APPIC standards, the minimum requirements include 500 hours of direct clinical contact, 100 hours of individual supervision by a licensed psychologist, 100 hours of group or additional individual supervision, and 100 hours of didactic training. Two hours of weekly individual supervision are provided by licensed psychologists. A minimum of two hours of weekly group supervision are also provided. Interns typically spend at least 30 percent of their time in direct clinical contact. Psychology interns integrate theoretical, clinical, and professional issues in psychology into the service delivery model at the rotation sites within the Youth Services Department's Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division.

There are three subdivisions that comprise the Division (described above): Highridge Family Center, Education & Training, and Youth & Family Counseling. Each intern will complete a *six month residential rotation at Highridge Family Center* and a *six month outpatient rotation at Education & Training*, which together provide a range of clinical and didactic experiences that represent the necessary depth and breadth required for future professional independent practice. Formal evaluation of the intern occurs every six months.

### Highridge Family Center – Residential Rotation

Psychology interns will be at Highridge Family Center for six months. The intern, under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, is responsible for providing family, group, individual, and milieu therapy to residents of Highridge, working in the same capacity as the other houses' therapists. Additionally, the intern will participate in weekly multidisciplinary treatment team meetings, case conferences, multi-family groups, staff consultations, and presentations to parents.

### Education and Training - Outpatient Rotation

The intern will complete a six-month outpatient rotation. Psychology interns will be responsible for providing short-term (3-4 months) family therapy, individual therapy (only age 18-22), group therapy, intake assessments, behavioral interventions in an alternative school setting (Highridge), consultation, and case management. Interns complete psychological evaluations, provide parent education/support/training, and may conduct outreach activities, including presentations to staff, schools, and community agencies.

## **Training Activities**

### Therapy

Therapy is provided throughout the Division in a variety of treatment modalities, including family therapy, group therapy, individual therapy, and milieu therapy. Therapy takes place in outpatient (Ed Center/YFC) and residential (Highridge) settings and includes individuals from a diverse range of age ranges, racial and ethnic groups, and socioeconomic levels. Individual therapy is reserved for youth between the ages of 18-22 in the outpatient office setting. Therapy may also be conducted by some trainees at sites of collaborative partners. Trainees will develop treatment plans with specific goals and objectives for each of their therapy cases. Telemental services may be provided when appropriate.

### Parenting

The Youth Services Department offers a variety of parenting services that can be provided via an individual or group format. Curriculums developed from evidence-based programs aimed at helping caregivers raise children in a safe, stable, and healthy environment may be utilized. Behavioral parent training for select families of younger children may also be offered through an evidenced-based treatment, in which parents learn behavior management strategies to increase their child's engagement in desirable behaviors while learning effective discipline procedures to reduce engagement in disruptive behaviors. Parent support groups are also offered depending on need.

### Psychological Evaluation

Referrals for psychological testing come from within the Division. Trainees may also make referrals for their therapy clients to be tested. Full batteries include clinical interviews and assessment of intellectual, behavioral, and personality/social functioning. Psychoeducational testing may also be included in the full assessment batteries. With supervisor approval, less inclusive partial batteries determined by the needs of the family may be completed. The

evaluation process involves consultation with referring therapists, administering and scoring measures, obtaining peer review of scoring accuracy, writing integrated reports, and holding feedback sessions in a timely manner.

#### Intake Assessment

Intake assessments involve developing interviewing skills and gathering pertinent clinical information during intake interviews. All clients are seen for an initial intake interview to assess their eligibility and need for services and/or to make appropriate referrals.

#### Risk Assessment, Abuse Reporting, Crisis Intervention, and Safety Planning

With close supervision, trainees will facilitate risk assessments and treatment of crisis situations. Safety planning and abuse reports will be implemented when necessary.

#### Multidisciplinary Consultation

Consultation takes place on an ongoing basis with staff, administrators, the Division's collaborative organizations, school personnel, case managers, psychiatrists, and/or other collateral sources. Onsite consultation at the Highridge School is also performed regularly.

#### Case Management

Ongoing case management is provided for all families/clients served, as determined by each family's needs.

#### Didactic Activities

Didactic activities include attending and presenting at weekly Youth Services Department formal trainings. Trainings take various forms, including lecture and demonstration, formal continuing education workshops, and presentations from practitioners and agencies that work in collaboration with the Youth Services Department. The goals of these trainings are to maintain awareness of recent empirical literature, to inform clinical practice with evidence based findings, and to develop skills in making professional case presentations. The didactic training schedule is intended to compliment clinical supervision, assist professional development, and promote peer relationships. A tentative schedule is distributed at the beginning of the training year and updated periodically. Some topics include laws and ethics, professional development, intervention strategies, diagnostic issues, psychological testing, child maltreatment, domestic violence, diversity considerations, and supervision. Many of the trainings offer continuing education units because the Youth Services Department is an approved CEU sponsor of the American Psychological Association (APA), the State of Florida Department of Health's Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling, and the Florida Department of Health's Board of Nursing. Opportunities to attend and present at local workshops and conferences are also available.

#### Community Outreach

Opportunities to present trainings on a variety of mental health topics arise and involve developing and providing such presentations at county-sponsored events as well as various community agencies. Developing and recording social media posts on mental health topics is also considered an outreach activity. Outreach may also include discussing the services offered at the Youth Services Department at resource events/fairs in the community.

#### Supervision

Interns may provide mentorship to practicum trainee(s) as needed. Interns will also provide peer supervision to another intern. A psychologist licensed in the state of Florida provides individual supervision to psychology doctoral trainees of all levels. Moreover, a minimum of 2 additional hours is provided weekly in a group supervision format with the clinical team at each office location. Trainees are expected to present and discuss therapy and evaluation cases at group supervision meetings. Trainees are expected to present session audio/video recordings during these presentations and, at times, be observed through a one-way mirror.

#### Youth Services Department Licensed Psychologists

Shayna Ginsburg, Psy.D., Training Director/Chief of Clinical Services, Education & Training

Amanda Terrell, Psy.D., Chief of Residential Clinical Services, Highridge Family Center

Amanda Jensen, Psy.D., Psychologist, Highridge Family Center

Danniella Jones, Psy.D., Psychologist, Education & Training

Laura Cruz, Ph.D., Psychologist, Education & Training

Twila Taylor, Psy.D., Division Director, Residential Treatment & Family Counseling

\*All psychologists are licensed in the state of Florida.



### **Stipend, Benefits, and Resources**

The Youth Services Department has been a training facility for doctoral and master's degree students for over fifteen years. The Department supports internship accreditation by the American Psychological Association in an effort to continue improving the quality of training for graduate students and the quality and quantity of services provided to clients. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has authorized the Department to budget funds for the stipend of four interns.

Before the start of the internship, Youth Services Department interns must complete a Level 2 background check with fingerprints (paid for by the county) and submit proof of liability insurance (purchased at the intern's expense) with the signed contract. Once cleared, interns are considered Independent Contractors with Palm Beach County.

The internship annual stipend is \$25,920, paid biweekly (payable at \$12.96 per hour). This stipend covers 50 weeks out of the year, with 2 weeks (80 hours) reserved for unpaid leave time (holiday/vacation/sick). Interns may take up to an additional 20 hours of vacation and 100 hours of sick time, which must be made up. There are 12 government holidays (120 hours) when county offices are closed; these hours must be made up by interns working additional hours or using his/her unpaid leave time (holiday/vacation/sick), in order to receive the full stipend. Professional development leave to attend conferences or presentations may be granted. Typical work week shifts are 10 hours long with a 30 minute lunch break, Monday through Thursday, with occasional variance in schedule for other activities. A one-time health insurance stipend of \$500 is paid to the intern after 6 months in the program.

Interns with the Youth Services Department have access to numerous resources. Interns are provided access to current testing materials and manuals, computerized scoring programs, as well as therapy toys/games and testing tools/books. Interns may also access full-text books and journals through the Youth Services Department's subscription to the American Psychological Association's PsychNET Gold Database. Additional materials that may be needed can be purchased with county funds with approval from the Training Director. Additionally, each intern has access to an office with a desktop computer, phone, and voicemail. Interns may utilize office printers, scanners, and fax machines, as well as administrative and technical support. Interns are provided with their own email address, Zoom accounts, and computer network account. Clerical support is available to assist with scheduling.

### **Intern Selection and Academic Preparation Requirements Policy**

#### ***Application Process***

To be considered for the Youth Services Department internship program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a doctoral candidate in an accredited clinical or counseling psychology program.
- At least three years of graduate education in psychology must be completed by the start of internship.
- A minimum of 1000 hours of training must be completed prior to internship, which may include practica as well as other clinical or work experience.
- A minimum of 400 intervention hours and 100 assessment hours by the start of internship.  
*\*Due to COVID-19, alternate means of meeting this competency/hours requirement will be considered.*
- Comprehensive Exams must be passed prior to applying for internship.
- Expected dissertation proposal date must be prior to the start of internship.



Students interested in applying for the internship program should submit an online application through the APPIC website ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org)). A complete application consists of the following materials:

- A completed Online AAPI (APPIC's standard application)
- Cover letter (as part of AAPI)
- A current Curriculum Vita (as part of AAPI)
- Three Standardized Reference Forms, two of which must be from persons who have directly supervised your clinical work (as part of AAPI). Please submit no more than three references.
- Official transcripts of all graduate coursework (as part of AAPI)
- A de-identified child or adolescent psychological evaluation report, preferably non-neuro (as a supplement to the AAPI)
- A written explanation of alternate means of meeting intervention and/or assessment competency/hours if hours are below the minimum levels required (as a supplement to the AAPI)

All application materials must be received by the date noted in the current APPIC directory listing in order to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

#### ***Application Screening and Interview Processes***

The Youth Services Department Internship Program will base its selection process on the entire application package noted above. Preference will be given to applicants whose credentials include the following:

- Extensive experience working with children, adolescents, and families
- Extensive training and/or classes in family and systemic theory
- Extensive psychological/psychoeducational testing experience

All applications will be evaluated by the Youth Services Department Training Committee for potential goodness-of-fit with the internship program. We look for interns with training goals aligned with the training that we offer. The program looks not only at the total number of practicum hours, but the quality of training in terms of the type of setting as well as experience with evidence based practice. We prefer interns who have training and experience in working with youth and families and those who, based on their experience, demonstrate cultural sensitivity working with diverse populations. However, we will consider candidates with gaps in this training who demonstrate great potential and an eagerness to learn based on strong letters of recommendation, essays, and interviews. *Underrepresented groups and those who speak Spanish and Creole are particularly encouraged to apply* because we seek to recruit diverse interns as well as meet the needs of our diverse client population.

All applications will be screened by the Youth Services Department Training Committee, using a standard Application Rating Scale, and evaluated for potential goodness of fit with the internship program. The Training Committee will hold a selection meeting to determine which applicants to invite for interviews based upon the results of this screening process. All applicants will be notified by email of a decision regarding an invitation to interview on the date indicated in the current APPIC directory. Interviews will be scheduled throughout the month of January and will occur remotely with members of the Training Committee.

Interviews entail a half-day experience involving various activities. Specifically, on the day of the interview, a small group of intern applicants (typically 3-5) will meet with the internship's Training Director and other supervising psychologists for an overview of the site and various training opportunities. As a group, prospective interns will also be given a clinical scenario and asked to discuss the scenario in a group format in front of the supervising psychologists. Subsequently, prospective interns will meet individually with outpatient and residential supervising psychologists in order to answer a series of interview questions. Interviews will be conducted using a standard set of interview questions, although members of the Training Committee may ask additional interview questions of applicants as appropriate. Applicants will also be afforded an opportunity to ask questions during their group meeting and individual interview times. As a group, applicants will meet with

the current interns and postdoctoral fellows, and will tour the Highridge facility. The Youth Services Department agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any rank information from any internship applicant.

***Participation in the Match***

The Training Committee will hold a meeting within two weeks of the final interviews being completed in order to determine applicant rankings. The full application package and information gathered from the interview process will be utilized to determine applicant rankings. As a member of APPIC, Youth Services will participate in the national internship matching process by submitting its applicant rankings to the National Matching Service, which can be reached at the following website: [www.natmatch.com/psychint](http://www.natmatch.com/psychint). Applicants and their graduate program Directors of Clinical Training are contacted accordingly following release of computer match results.

***Application Due Date and Interview Notification Date***

All application materials must be submitted through the AAPI online portal by November 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be considered for our program. All applicants will be notified by email of a decision regarding an invitation to interview on or before December 17<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be scheduled in January and will occur remotely with members of the Training Committee.

Questions regarding any part of the internship selection process or the Youth Services Department's academic preparation requirements may be directed to the Training Director.

**Training Director Contact Information**

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