

Psychological Services of Lake County Doctoral Practicum

What to Expect with Your
Practicum Experience

Our Division

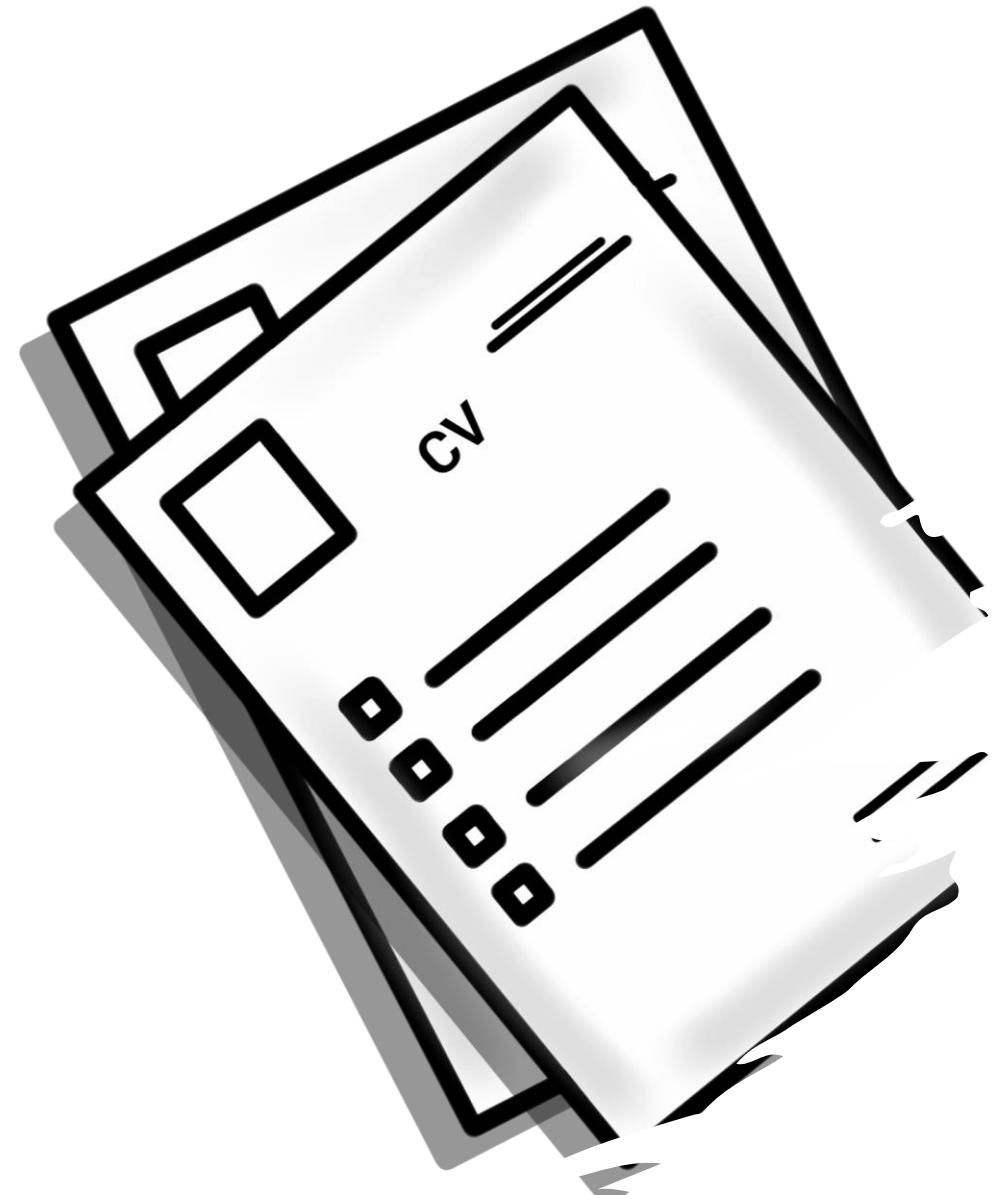
Psychological Services is a division within the Administrative Office of the 19th Judicial Circuit. The Division consists of doctoral-level licensed clinical psychologists, master's level mental health evaluators and therapists, community resource liaisons and an executive assistant.

Psychological Services conducts psychological assessments, individual and family therapy for probationers, anger management assessment and groups, and parenting groups for adult probationers and for the families of juvenile probationers. It monitors contractual services provided by community agencies, including the development of new services funded by probation fees.

Through both formal seminars and informal consultation, Psychological Services works to educate probation staff on psychological, substance abuse and resource issues relevant to the rehabilitation of probationers.

The Division conducts a range of assessments including fitness to stand trial evaluations, not guilty by reason of insanity evaluations, psychological evaluations of individuals undergoing pre-sentence and pre-plea investigations, and mental health evaluations of individuals on probation, including individuals being considered for the Problem-Solving Courts (Drug, Mental Health, Veterans).

Application and Interview



Most years, Lake County offers diagnostic and advanced (psychotherapy and diagnostic) practica.

Lake County Psychological Services accepts applications from ACEPT and non-ACEPT schools. If you are from an ACEPT school, we will follow all ACEPT protocol for applications.

Applications should be sent electronically using the fillable application found at:

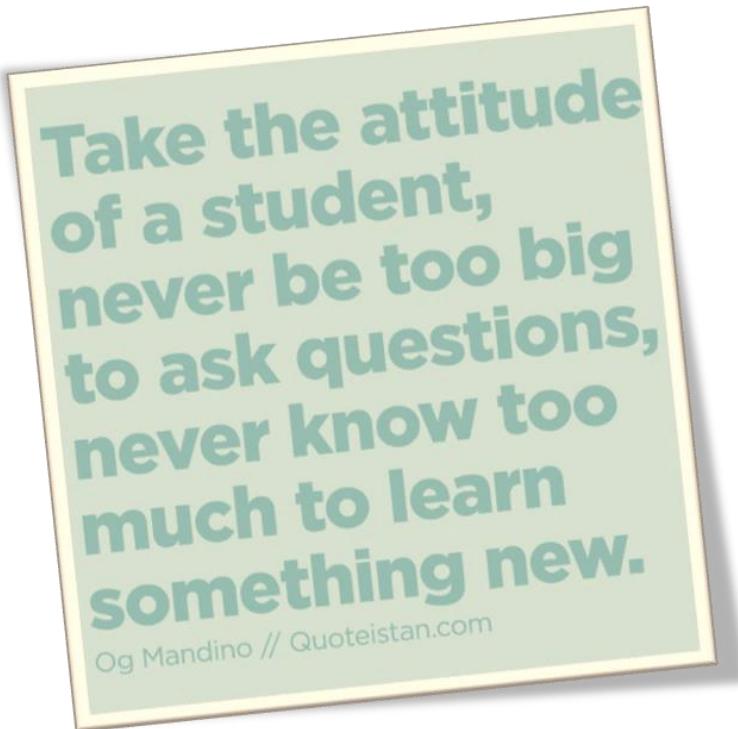
<http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/1237/Psychological-Services>

Students should submit all requested information along with the application and consent forms.

Typically, invitations to interview are sent via email with options of date and time.

Students should respond with a preferred date and time but also be flexible with an alternate date/time, as timeslots fill quickly.

Ideal Candidates



The Ideal Psychological Services Practicum Student:

- 😊 Is ethical and professional.
- 😊 Meets training site commitments and obligations.
- 😊 Values supervision and incorporates supervisory feedback.
- 😊 Utilizes good judgment, is self-motivated, and is attentive to self-care.
- 😊 Is empathic and respectful of individuals and cultural diversity.
- 😊 Has strong written and verbal communication skills.
- 😊 Desires to improve competence and confidence in psychodiagnostics, report writing, and (for advanced students) psychotherapy.
- 😊 Is cooperative and collaborative.

Interviewing and Acceptance

Students will interview with 1-2 doctors from our practicum committee.

Students may also have an opportunity to speak with current practicum students for insight and feedback.

When offering practicum positions with Lake County, students will be notified following ACCEPT protocols (if applicable).

After accepting a practicum position with Lake County, students will be in contact with the Practicum Training Director throughout the summer.

Before You Begin...

The practicum training year generally begins in August and ends in June.

Before your orientation, you will be in contact with the Practicum Director. This will assist in making a smooth transition with our Division.

You will receive several forms and documents prior to orientation; Some explaining various protocols and some requiring action and being returned within the requested timeframe.

The Practicum Director will also send out information on start dates, supervisors, etc. You may contact the director at any time prior to orientation with any questions or concerns.

Orientation

Students are generally in the office 2 days, weekly. Advanced students may have an additional day assigned.

The first two weeks of practicum, students will experience a variety of scenarios including:

- Introduction to workspaces and staff
- Orientation to workplace policies and procedures
- Tours of various county facilities
- Observation of fitness court call
- Training on commonly used testing protocols
- Completion of county-required trainings

Students will also meet with their assigned supervisor and review practicum expectations.

Your Practicum Year - Workload

Individuals referred for services with our Division are diverse and present with a broad array of complex clinical issues and concerns.

Students typically work a minimum of 16 hours weekly; up to 24 hours may acceptable, if approved by supervisor.

Remote work may be available or required depending on situation and circumstance; prior approval from supervisor must be obtained.



Diagnostic students complete approximately 12-15 mental health evaluations throughout the practicum year.

Advanced students divide their time between assessment and psychotherapy and may complete approximately 10-12 assessments.

Students will also engage in group supervision, case presentation and didactics.

Your Practicum Year

All students, both diagnostic and advanced, will have the following opportunities:

Administer and interpret a broad array of testing protocols

Become proficient at clinical interviewing and record review

One-on-one as well as group supervision and consultation

Conceptualizing and integrating evaluation findings; Write, revise and edit drafts

Facilitate testing in a one-on-one as well as group environment

Your Practicum Year - Advanced Students

In addition to assessment, advanced practicum students will also have unique opportunities to provide therapy for a vast array of court-involved clientele. Typical psychotherapy caseload averages about 5 clients.

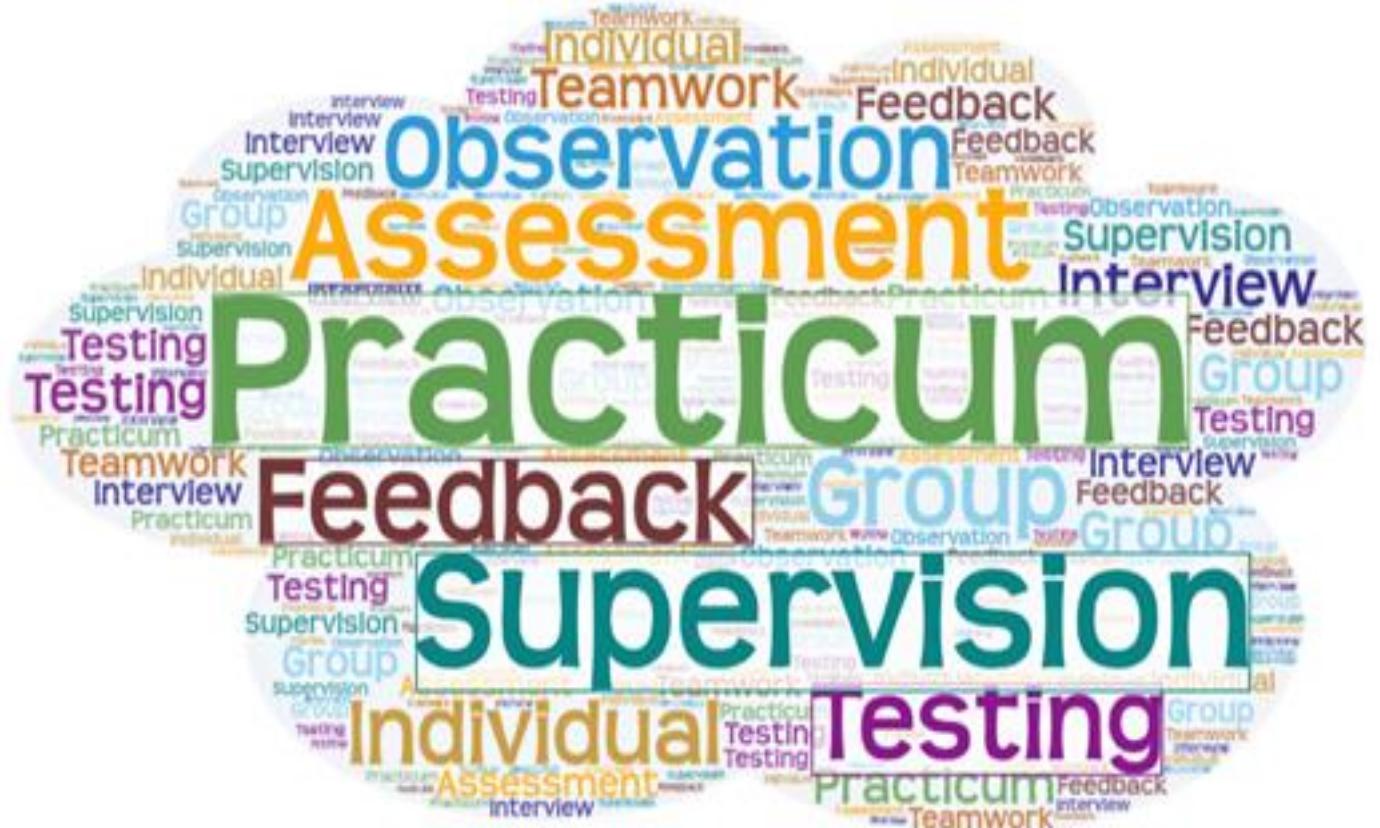
Students will also facilitate therapy in a group setting using the evidence-based model of Seeking Safety. Seeking Safety is a present-focused counseling model to help people attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse.

The Key Principles of Seeking Safety:

- 1) Safety as the overarching goal (helping clients attain safety in their relationships, thinking, behavior, and emotions)
- 2) Integrated treatment (working on both trauma and substance abuse at the same time)
- 3) A focus on ideals to counteract the loss of ideals in both trauma and substance abuse
- 4) Four content areas: cognitive, behavioral, interpersonal, case management

Your Practicum Year – Supervision

- Students will receive at least 1 hour individual supervision from a licensed psychologist weekly
- Students will receive at least 1 additional hour of supervision weekly
 - May be in a group or with mental health clinicians other than a licensed psychologist
- Students are encouraged to observe staff conducting psychological and forensic evaluations and may assist staff in completing evaluations



Supervision Philosophy

We believe that quality of students' work is more important than quantity. Supervision at Psychological Services is individualized and student-focused.

We believe that it is important for students to consider different points of view and to get answers in a timely manner. Students will have a primary supervisor. Students may consult with other clinicians on staff and are encouraged to do so. Students are also encouraged to observe and assist staff in the completion of various psychological and psycho-legal evaluations.

Training opportunities are also provided through Adult Probation Services and the Lake County Health Department. Students are encouraged to attend trainings as part of their practicum experience.

Your Practicum Year – Wrap Up

Students typically wrap up their practicum with a final supervision with clinical staff.

Students also are requested to fill out a Practicum Feedback Survey.

This survey assists us to continually improve our practicum to ensure students receive the maximum benefit from their time with our Division.

Student Feedback Evaluation of Practicum

In an effort to continually improve our practicum please complete the following. Your responses are most appreciated and will not be a factor in your evaluation.

Practicum Type: Advanced Diagnostic Psychotherapy Other

Name (optional) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Student Feedback

“The supervisors are great and have given me so much time and attention in regards to strengthening my diagnostic assessment skills.”

2019-2020

“It was really nice to always have someone available to discuss questions with. Group supervision was also helpful to see issues from other perspectives.”

2018-2019

“I feel that students received a good amount of supervision on all testing cases, and no questions were left unanswered- while still challenging us to grow professionally.”

2019-2020

“I know that I can go to any of the psychologists on staff whenever I had a question or concern. The students are also given the right amount of support, guidance, and autonomy.”

2017-2018

“I felt that I was really given the opportunity to learn, develop, and expand my skill set with support.”

2018-2019

“The most enjoyable part is coming together as a unit. The most interesting part is learning about new things from subject matter experts. It’s a different experience from class lectures. I really appreciated all of the training topics.”

2019-2020

Research Opportunity

The Division has a substantial database of archival data of over 10,000 psychological evaluations. Students have utilized this data to complete dissertations.

Other research opportunities may also exist for motivated student researchers.

If interested in a research opportunity, students may speak to their supervisor for more information.



Final Thoughts

The Doctoral Practicum offered by Lake County Division of Psychological Services is highly regarded by students and staff alike. We encourage our students to be active participants in their educational and professional growth.

Our supervisors provide individual and group supervision plus didactic training. Students are encouraged to observe clinical staff and consult with peers. We offer many unique opportunities throughout the practicum year for training and observation, case presentation, testing and evaluation and courtroom observation.

The Division of Psychological Services also offers a wide array of testing inventories including:

- Ability, Achievement & Adaptive Functioning
- Objective Measures
- Subjective/Projective
- Specialty Forensic—Feigning, Effort, NGRI, Competence, Miranda

Ideal candidates should be motivated to learn, engaging, inquisitive, present with an ethical and professional demeanor and be able to work independently as well as in a group environment.

If you are interested in more information on the doctoral practicum, please contact us at psychservicesinfo@lakecountyil.gov

