

Psychology Internships

Updated Fall, 2016

Internships are designed to provide students with practical experience in work settings where their knowledge of psychology is applied. Interns serve in community agencies, schools, hospitals, clinics, businesses and other similar organizations. Interns meet regularly throughout the semester with the faculty member directing the program in order to share their experiences. The Internship Director for Psychology is Dr. Mary Camac, mcamac@roanoke.edu, office 517 Life Science, office phone 540 375 2474.

Guidelines for Psychology Internships

Students may take up to two Internships for credit (PSYC 316 and 317); one counts as an elective in the Major, and one counts as a General Elective toward graduation. All Internships are taken on a Pass-Fail basis. Students may receive payment from the internship site for work done as a Psychology Intern, but that is not guaranteed.

Student Qualifications: A student may apply for permission to enroll in internship courses if he or she meets the following qualifications:

- 2.0 GPA overall and in Psychology
- Demonstrated Personal Maturity, Reliability, and Integrity

Procedure for Enrolling in the Internship Courses

1. In order to be enrolled in an internship the student must:

- complete the internship application.
- obtain approval from the psychology faculty.
- be accepted at an internship placement site.

2. The student has primary responsibility for contacting the internship site once the application is approved. The last page lists some sites we have used before. Career Planning also has potential sites. See their website:

http://roanoke.edu/A-Z_Index/Career_Services/Students/Internships.htm.

3. Enrollment in internship is done through the Department Chair. The Internship Director will submit the student's approved application, a description of the arranged internship, and the internship supervisor's name to the Department Chair no later than the end of the Add period for each term. If the student needs the internship in order to be a full-time student and is receiving financial aid, enrollment must be completed before the beginning of the term. **Enrollment in a back-up course is strongly recommended!**

4. Summer internships are possible, though we strongly encourage doing them during the semester for better contact among the site, student and internship director.

Requirements of the Internship

1. The intern is expected to spend a minimum of 120 hours working at the placement site. The hours should be spread over at least 10 weeks.
2. A contract listing learning goals and expected duties must be developed and signed by all parties within the first week of the internship.
3. The intern is also expected to attend meetings with the Internship Director if the internship is done during the regular semester. Most meetings will be group meetings where interns will discuss their experiences.
4. The intern will complete written assignments made by the Internship Director. These include a journal kept during the internship and emailed to the director every 2 weeks, and a reflection paper submitted at the end of the internship.
5. The site supervisor will submit an evaluation of the intern's work. Forms will be provided by the Internship Director. The intern will also submit an evaluation of the site and supervisor.
6. Students are required to present an 11x17 poster at the **Psychology Department Poster Session**. This is typically the last Thursday of classes from 12-1 p.m. You should be able to answer these questions:
 - Can you describe in one sentence what you did?
 - What specific skills/knowledge have you gained through your coursework which helped prepare you for this experience?
 - What specific skills/knowledge have you gained through this experience which helped you (or will help you) with your coursework?
 - Did this experience help you with your career planning? If so, in what way?
 - Imagine that you're applying for a job. What specific skills/knowledge did you gain through this experience that you could talk about during a job interview?

Requirements for the Internship Site

Internships sponsored through the psychology department must meet the criteria listed below:

- a. The primary activities for the intern in the setting involve applied psychology. This typically includes application of research methods, measurement skills, counseling skills, or clinical methods.
- b. The setting affords the student opportunity to use knowledge learned in psychology courses in the internship activities.
- c. The setting is similar to those in which students might reasonably expect to find employment after attaining either the B.A. with a major in psychology or the M.A. in psychology.
- d. The setting provides a minimum of 120 hours of on-site work which can be spread out over 10 weeks.
- e. At least one site supervisor is available to provide a written evaluation of the intern's work.

Students may propose new internship settings to the internship director. Sites in the Roanoke Valley we have used in the past are listed on the following page.

Placement Sites for recent Psychology Interns include the following:

- EHS Support Services
- Healing Strides
- Easter Seals
- TAP
- Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center
- Roanoke College Development Office
- West End Center for Youth
- Headstart
- Conflict Resolution Center
- Bethany Hall
- Mill Mountain Zoo
- Salem Montessori School
- Children's Trust
- Robertson Marketing
- Advance Auto
- Hopetree Family Services
- Gus Mitchell School
- Total Life Counseling
- Turning Points Battered Women's Shelter
- Roanoke College Student Services
- Roanoke College Community Programs and Special Events
- Planned Parenthood
- Western Virginia Regional Jail
- Roanoke United Methodist Home
- Snyder Nursing Home
- Brandon Oaks Retirement Community
- Adult Day Care, VA Medical Center
- Richfield Retirement
- Minnick Education Center
- Speech and Language Pathology, Lewis Gale Hospital
- East Mental Health
- Professional Therapies of Roanoke
- Roanoke City Social Services