

Office of Psychological Assessment Internship Opportunities

The Office of Psychological Assessment provides low-cost psychological assessment to SCSU students and members of the surrounding community.

Graduate students in the MA in Psychology program can complete internships in the OPA, gaining training and experience in clinical assessment, and (if interested) engaging in research on assessment.

- I. The OPA provides Clinical/Diagnostic Interviewing, Psychological Testing, and some Research opportunities. The assessment and report-writing helps clients (often SCSU students) obtain appropriate treatment, gain insight, and access accommodations provided through disability law (such as the Disability Resource Center here at SCSU).
- II. The OPA also consults and collaborates with Psychiatrists, Psychologists, APRN's, and Physicians, families and school districts, and graduate students from Social Work and School Psychology.
- III. Those who work in the OPA receive course credit for PSY 546 (*Practicum in Assessment and Report Writing*). Each Graduate Student Clinician gains experience conducting 2 or 3 (usually 3) assessments per semester, plus attending weekly individual and group supervision. The course can be take twice for program credit (see below)
- IV. To be qualified to take PSY 546, a student must have had previous assessment training. Under some circumstances, previous work or research experience can fill this requirement. Most often, however, a Graduate Student will need to have taken one of the following: *Psychopathology*, *Clinical Methods: Cognitive Assessment*, or *Clinical Methods: Personality and Social Assessment* as a prerequisite. To repeat PSY 546, a Graduate Student will need to have taken a second of the above three courses. Also, those who repeat the class can take on somewhat of a Coordinator role, aiding in the training of the newer students. Thus, there is opportunity to receive introductory and general experience at assessment, report writing, and the work of running an Assessment Office.
- V. Interested students can also get involved in ongoing Assessment Research (e.g. investigative interviewing, credibility assessment, development of psychometrics, and the use of psychometrics to conduct research into psychological theories). Motivated students may become involved with conference presentations and/or publications. Note, this opportunity is not a requirement of PSY 546.

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Why do this?

- Learn how to do assessments per various disability laws, run an assessment office, and genuinely help people that need it.
- Work closely with peers who are all dedicated to learning and practice. This serves as a “Center of Excellence,” for research and practice of psychological assessment.
- Help promote your future career development through experience with research and/or practice.
- Determine your best path for further professional development: continued education, practice-based, or research-based job (LPC, LCSW, Ph.D., Psy.D., School Psychology, Speech and Language Pathology, BCBA, or Reading Specialist, Project Coordinator for Clinical Studies, working for Pharma, etc.).

Outline of an Internship course plan:

Semester 1: Enroll in *Psychopathology*.

Semester 2: Enroll in either *Clinical Methods: Cognitive Assessment* OR in *Clinical Methods: Personality and Social Assessment*, and in the *Practicum in Assessment and Report Writing* (PSY 546) for the first time.

Semester 3: Enroll in either *Clinical Methods: Cognitive Assessment* OR in *Clinical Methods: Personality and Social Assessment*, and in the *Practicum in Assessment and Report Writing* (PSY 546) for the second time.

If you are interested, or have questions, please email: colwellk2@southernct.edu