



Doctoral Practicum Training Program

What is Community Services Institute?

CSI is a family-owned community mental health clinic focused exclusively on outpatient, trauma-informed psychotherapy, psychiatry, and psychological assessment working with clients with symptoms of:

- PTSD associated with combat exposure, developmental trauma, domestic violence, and witnessing horrific events
- Post incarceration mental health services for dual diagnosis
- Issues impacting school performance, including behavioral and learning related issues

One meaning of the word “institute” is: “an organization founded to promote a cause.” Our cause is to ease the suffering of individuals traumatized by violence, dislocation, and poverty. CSI is a “community-based teaching clinic” offering training programs and strong clinical supervision for Master’s level Social Work and Mental Health Counseling, Doctoral Practicums, Doctoral Internships as well as Post-Doctoral Fellowships to help develop psychotherapists who are knowledgeable in providing trauma-informed care.

History of Community Services Institute

More than 30 years ago, CSI began offering mental health services in Massachusetts as part of the De-Institutional movement of the 1970’s, when long-stay psychiatric hospitals were replaced with community mental health services. The Massachusetts Department of Social Services (now called DCF) began to use CSI as a tool in fighting victimization of vulnerable children and families receiving DSS services. CSI has been fiercely committed to keeping families living together in the community through the use of psychotherapy, supported by psychiatric evaluation services, and a psychology department with extensive expert experience in psychological testing, parenting evaluations, and risk assessment. CSI clinicians honor the proud legacy of the late Anna Freud’s “The Best Interest of the Child” in all clinical work using psychology to understand the complex field of child abuse and neglect.

Services Provided at CSI

- Outreach psychotherapy
- In-clinic psychotherapy
- Psychological evaluations
- Psychiatric Medication Services
- Neurofeedback Services
- Therapeutic Mentoring Services

Description of Doctoral Practicum Training

Doctoral practicum students will be responsible for providing in-clinic and outreach individual psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults struggling with serious emotional disturbances, psychological impairments, addictions, and high-stress life circumstances. Many clients at CSI have experienced some sort of traumatic event as well as are involved with the Department of Children and Families. As a part of a 20 hour per week practicum, students can expect to receive:

- An average of 8-10 direct client hours a week
- Two 1-hour weekly individual supervisions with a licensed psychologist
- One hour of weekly documentation training and support
- Four hours of weekly didactic training in “Becoming a Trauma-Informed Therapist,” “Practical Application of Psychological Theory,” and “Psychodiagnostic Assessment”

Additional responsibilities include one professional presentation that can be completed during a didactic training or during CSI’s monthly staff meeting on the second Monday of each month, as well as three psychological evaluations over the course of the training year.

Practicum students are welcome to work with their supervisors to tailor their training experience based on their interests. Previous trainees have focused their trainings on gathering experiences in:

- Neurofeedback
- Psychological evaluation
- Play therapy
- Filial therapy
- Group psychotherapy

Psychological Testing Track

Doctoral practicum students have the opportunity to participate in a specialized training focused on providing psychological evaluations over the course of the training year. Students would complete a minimum of ten evaluations throughout the practicum, which averages to about one per month. To accommodate the increased focused on testing, doctoral practicum students would carry a smaller clinical caseload.

What CSI looks for in a Practicum Student

Doctoral practicum students must be a full time graduate student in a Clinical or Counseling Psychology doctoral program. Doctoral practicum students should be able to work both independently and collaboratively with other professional staff and providers in the area. Doctoral practicum students should also have good

time management skills. Doctoral practicum students should be open and flexible to the challenges that the practicum year provides, while maintaining a state of professionalism. Doctoral practicum students will be expected to maintain strict confidentiality as required by the various laws and ethics code associated with the mental health professions.

How to Apply

To be fully considered for the position, please submit your CV and cover letter by Wednesday, January 16th at 5:00 p.m. Applications and questions about the practicum program can be directed to:

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Practicum Program Administrator

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