

## **Counselling Clinical Practicum Overview**

Supervised clinical training is an integral part of graduate education at Adler University, Vancouver Campus. A clinical practicum involves students providing psychological services to clients under the direction of competent clinicians. The goal of this training is for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to become competent practitioners. A clinical practicum complements classroom education provides the opportunity to work with experienced clinicians and helps students acquire a professional identity. Adler University, Vancouver Campus, is committed to developing excellent clinical training experiences for students and quality care for persons receiving psychological services from our students.

The Training Director works in collaboration with the students, faculty, and practicum sites in locating, developing, maintaining, and evaluating clinical experiences, which are necessary to meet the standards and requirements of the program. Students are expected to complete at least 700 hours (200 of which must be direct clinical service) at a practicum site over the course of 8-12 months. Most students begin the practicum in the second year of the program.

Students must attend a Clinical Practicum Information Session (a 2-hour workshop) prior to beginning the practicum application process. These Information Sessions are usually held in the second semester of the program and students will be notified by email of the dates. It is the students' responsibility to secure a practicum site. This is very much like a job search where one submits a resume and hopefully is called for an interview. The application process is competitive, especially for sites in the Lower Mainland. Students without counselling-related experience are advised to pursue volunteer opportunities and training to help strengthen their practicum application.

It is not unusual for students to make many applications before finding a site. The good news is that most of our students find practicum sites with the start date they are seeking. An openness to travel is a definite asset as our counselling practicum site locations span from Vancouver to Chilliwack, BC. We also have relationships with sites in other provinces.

For more information students can access the Clinical Practicum Handbook.