



UT Health Clinical Psychology Internship Program and COVID-19 (Date: 7/1/2021*)

Please notice that the UT Health San Antonio Clinical Psychology Interns have had no difficulties maintaining their training or accruing training hours during the pandemic. All previous interns have graduated on-time with a modified training schedule to ensure the safety of our interns, faculty, staff, and patients.

UT Health San Antonio Clinical Psychology Interns are considered “**essential personnel**”.

Safety Precautions:

On-campus clinics either have self-service temperature kiosks or individuals stationed to take temperatures and ask about current symptoms. Masks are required during patient visits. Face shields are also available for in-person visits. Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been provided for interns. Waiting rooms and patient rooms have been configured to maintain social distancing and are being sanitized frequently. Individuals accompanying patients to visits and in-patient visits have been minimized. There are frequent sanitation stations available with hand sanitizer. Large group meetings (with more than 10 individuals) are allowed.

Rotation Sites by Track:

Child, Adolescent, and Family Track

Clarity Child Guidance Center

Currently, the majority of psychotherapy cases are being provided in-person but this can increase or decrease in response to changes in COVID-19 data trends. At this time, psychological testing cases are being seen in-person; however, testing cases may decrease if city lockdowns occur. Psychology interns will be provided ample PPE.

Forensic Track

Kerrville State Hospital (KSH)

Psychology interns are working in-office at Kerrville State Hospital. However, KSH has the ability to have interns work from home (3-days at home; 2-days in-office) if there is a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Integrated Behavioral Health Primary Care Track

Department of Family and Community Medicine

Psychology interns provide a mix of in-office patient care (50%) and care through telehealth (50%). These percentages can (and have been adjusted) based upon city closures. Interns are given PPE to wear during face-to-face encounters with patients daily (i.e., face shield and surgical masks). Patients who are seen at the Family Health Center are also required to wear a surgical mask (provided to patients upon entry into the clinic daily) during the entire patient encounter (and when in the clinical building) in order to receive face-to-face care from providers.

Center for Health Care Services

Psychology intern is providing services in-person and through telehealth at this time which follows the CHCS COVID-19 protocol for both Primary Care and outpatient psychiatric services. The psychology intern is reporting on-site daily to manage telehealth visits and clinical tasks. The psychology intern may be approved to work from home to manage visits as COVID-19 remains a concern or surges. This can (and has been adjusted) based upon city closures.

CBT Track

San Antonio State Hospital

Psychology interns currently provide in-person care at the San Antonio State Hospital. The psychology intern may be approved to work from home to manage visits as COVID-19 remains a concern or surges. This can (and has been adjusted) based upon city closures.

STRONG STAR

As part of the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), interns see patients in-person. Patient load is low and generally consists of 1-2 patients at a time.

Student Counseling Center

Interns, faculty and staff will begin in-office care at the SCC on July 1st, 2021.

Transitional Care Clinic

Currently, the majority of patients are being seen in-person/in-office. During COVID-19 surges, telehealth services may be expanded.

Group Experiences:

PCIT

PCIT supervision and treatment is currently being conducted in person. Providers and families will be required to wear masks and engage in regular hand washing. Toys will be disinfected between uses. The risks and benefits of in-person treatment will be monitored closely and regularly.

DBT

All DBT groups are being conducted via telehealth. This format will be re-evaluated in August 2021.

RAMP/CHAMP

Currently RAMP/CHAMP is being conducted exclusively through telehealth, but this format will be re-evaluated in the upcoming months.

Clarity Groups

Due to the current pandemic, groups at Clarity are not being offered at this time. Groups at Clarity will resume once the pandemic is well-controlled.

Additional Patient Care:

Advance Clinic

Psychology interns are seeing patients in the Advance Clinic both in-person and through telehealth. This decision is based upon the preferences of the patient. Currently, approximately 75% of Advance Clinic patients are being seen via telehealth while approximately 25% are being seen in-office.

Didactics:

Tuesday didactics and internship meetings are currently being conducted in-person with guidance from appropriate state and local guidelines on social distancing and face masks.

Supervision:

Psychology intern supervision is being provided in a variety of ways. This includes in-person and through telehealth platforms.

Please visit UT Health San Antonio's COVID-19 webpage for updates:

<https://wp.uthscsa.edu/coronavirus/>

***Note:** This is a living document and is up to date based upon current COVID-19 surges in our community and based upon the recommendations of UT Health San Antonio in conjunction with the city of San Antonio, and Centers for Disease Control.