



The Professional Board for Psychology

Training of Intern Clinical Psychologists:

**Criteria for the Training and for the
Accreditation of Institutions offering
Training of Intern Clinical
Psychologists**

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1 MAIN PRINCIPLES

In the training of Clinical Psychologists, the following main principles must be adhered to:

1.1. The Training Authority

The term 'Training Authority' refers to an approved mental health establishment.

- 1.1.1. Training will only be recognised if it takes place at an approved mental health establishment on a full-time basis (i.e. 40 hours per week) over a minimum period of one (1) year in a place approved in advance for this purpose by the Board. Any leave privilege is included in the year of such service.
- 1.1.2. Proper supervision of the intern Clinical Psychologist's work is essential and must be exercised by a registered Clinical Psychologist with at least three (3) years' experience. *[Note: For Clinical Psychologists, Community Service may be counted as experience]*. Such a supervising Clinical Psychologist should accept the primary responsibility for the professional moulding of the intern Clinical Psychologists. Under such guidance the interns must gradually be allowed to assume progressively greater responsibility. The supervising Clinical Psychologist must ensure that the candidate is registered as an intern Clinical Psychologist with the HPCSA.
- 1.1.3. The training authority must have sufficient senior personnel available to provide the necessary training of the interns. Under no circumstances shall the ratio between intern Clinical Psychologists and a supervising Clinical Psychologist exceed 5:1. Further, the training must be done in a multi-professional context. The intern Clinical Psychologist must be involved as a full member of the team and should be professionally guided to progressively assume more responsibility.

1.1.4. The training authority must be able to provide the intern Clinical Psychologist with wide experience in the field and must be equipped with sufficient facilities to ensure this. The training authority is expected to structure their training patterns and selection processes to reflect the workforce needs of the country. These will be guided by National Policy Frameworks such as the Employment Equity Framework. Training authorities will be required to provide proof of being able to meet the training criteria for the interns concerned. If a training authority is able to meet only a portion of the training criteria, the Board may accredit the training body concerned for the proportional part or parts of the training which may be considered satisfactory.

1.2. Duties of the Training Authority

- 1.2.1. As indicated in 1.1.2 above, it is the duty of the training authority to maintain proper supervision of the work of intern Clinical Psychologists. Regular consultation (at least quarterly) between the training institution and the Department of Psychology of the collaborating University must ensure a healthy balance with regard to the rendering of services, training and participation in the training programme by the collaborating Department of Psychology.
- 1.2.2. Interns must also be fully integrated members of a multi-professional team at the place there they receive their training.
- 1.2.3. Interns must be allowed sufficient time for intern Clinical conferences or ward rounds and discussion, as well as for lectures and programmes which may be arranged by the collaborating Department of Psychology.
- 1.2.4. In the light of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, Section 60, accredited bodies must declare themselves willing to allow the Board, both before and after accreditation, to inspect or have the training facilities inspected. All institutions that qualify for accreditation must sign an agreement with the Board whereby they undertake to keep to their proposed training programme, to provide the requisite training and to maintain adequate supervision over the intern Clinical Psychologists.

1.2.5. Quarterly progress reports must be prepared and signed by the training authority for each intern Clinical Psychologist. These reports must be made available on request to the Board.

1.2.6. Quarterly meetings must be held with the collaborating University to present the intern Clinical Psychologist's quarterly reports for noting and remedial intervention should problems be identified.

It is expected of accredited authorities to inform the Board of any changes at the place of training that may possibly affect the accreditation status of such training authorities or accredited programmes.

1.3. The Training Programme

The training of intern Clinical Psychologists must cover all the facets outlined here below, although training authorities are free to determine the emphasis in the training provided that it falls within the indicated limits. Ethics must be included in the programme. The training programme must maintain a healthy balance with regard to the professional training of the interns and provide clear descriptions of the exit level outcomes (ELO) to ensure consistency in the assessment of the intern Clinical Psychologist's progress.

The following table can serve as guidelines:

Psychological Activities	Percentage
i. Patient evaluation and the use of psychological instruments.	20%
ii. Application of psychological intervention to include prevention, promotion, treatment and rehabilitation of individuals through utilisation of relevant formulations, diagnostics and therapy using various modalities.	30%
iii. Personal development and tuition by a mentor, participation in presentations discussions, workshops, etc.	5%
iv. Other profession-orientated activities including comprehensive induction and introduction of an intern to the hospital environment, procedures, policies, protocols, legislative documents, professionalism record keeping and other administrative activities.	5%
v. Exposure to Neuropsychology and Forensic work.	10% 5%
vi. Involvement in Community Psychology.	5%
vii. Interns must be allowed sufficient time for clinical conferences/ ward rounds and discussion, as well as for lectures and programmes which may be arranged by the collaborating department of psychology.	10%
viii. Ethics and conduct of practise must form part of the training component.	10%

Further, intern Clinical Psychologists must have access to a wide spectrum of cases, including children and adults, as well as diverse South African population which will ensure sufficient exposure as required by the programme.

The psychological tests listed in the internship programme have to comply with the Board's

- (a) Policy on the classification of psychometric measuring devices, instruments, methods and techniques (Form 208); and
- (b) List of tests classified as being psychological tests (Form 207).

The programme must reflect the number of leave days.

1.4. Maintenance of Standards

1.4.1. Bodies Concerned

The maintenance of the standards of training as indicated is delegated to the Psychology Departments of South African Universities in co-operation with the institutions which the Board approves for internship purposes, on the understanding that the final authority in this matter remains that of the Board.

1.4.2. Programme of Work

Before candidates for Clinical Psychology start their internship training, a programme of work must be drawn up by the Head of the Department of the concerned training authority, or supervising Clinical Psychologist in collaboration with the collaborating University Psychology Department, in which sufficient detail is specified about how intern Clinical Psychologists will spend their time during their internship period. If practical circumstances necessitate a deviation from the planned programme of work, the supervising Clinical Psychologists should arrange suitable changes and adjustments to the programme and notify both the Head of the Department and the collaborating University.

1.4.3. Procedure in the Event of Unsatisfactory Progress during Internship Training

In the event of unsatisfactory progress by the intern Clinical Psychologist, the Head or deputy-Head of the Department of the training authority concerned must liaise with the University Department concerned.

The Head or deputy-Head of the Department of the training authority and the Head or deputy-Head of the collaborating University Psychology Department must collectively decide on appropriate action, such as more intensive training, reprimand, warning or extension of the training or even termination of the internship. The Board must be informed immediately of any such steps taken against an intern Clinical Psychologist.

In the case of termination of internship the University Department concerned shall advise the Board regarding any extent to which the intern Clinical Psychologist should receive recognition for the internship training received and whether the intern should be allowed the opportunity to complete the internship at another accredited institution.

Notwithstanding the above guidelines, the final authority for the training of intern Clinical Psychologists rests with the Board. The final decision in any dispute that may arise with regard to the recognition of training of an intern Clinical Psychologist remains with the Board.

1.4.4. Certification

After completion of the period of service at the training place concerned, the necessary certificate must be signed by the Head of the Department of the training authority involved, the Head of the collaborating University concerned and the Head of the Health establishment or their official deputies.