

NV-PIC Website FAQs

1. Can I apply to more than one site and if so, how does the ranking work if I apply to more than one site?
 - Yes, you can apply to more than one site. Each site or track has a separate ranking number, which means you can rank whichever sites you're interested in according to your preference, and each site can rank you separately. Sometimes applicants decide to add sites after the interview, and that's fine. Just be sure to let Dr. Slife know which sites you are interested in being considered for!
2. What does a typical day or week look like for an intern?
 - Each site/track has variability in what the week looks like (please look for more information on intern activities on the website). All interns receive 2 hours of individual supervision, 2 hours of group supervision, and 2 hours of didactics each week. All interns receive training working with underserved patients in a public health setting and provide intervention, assessment, and consultation services.
3. What are you looking for in your internship applicants?
 - Interns who are successful can adapt to a dynamic training environment. Because of the needs of our patients and agencies, priorities for the day can change rapidly. For example, you might come in for your day and plan to work on a report, but one of your clients experienced a crisis and now you are dispatched to the unit to work with the client and staff.
 - Because this is a public health setting, interns should be prepared to work with high-need and low-resource clients. Many of our clients have severe mental illness and need treatment for most of their lives.
4. What are the biggest challenges for interns?
 - Internship is a challenging year; for most interns, this is the first time they have worked 40 hours per week in this type of professional capacity. Though graduate school is demanding, and students experience multiple demands, internship is challenging in a different way. It is a rewarding year, as this is the year you really learn to be a psychologist. The process of learning to be more independent, while still checking in and relying on your supervisor is much like adolescence! Learning to prioritize tasks and managing time at work is a necessity and takes skill-building to master.

5. Is it possible to spend part of the training year at other training sites?
 - In general, interns spend the entire training year at their own training site and do not switch sites. Each site has many opportunities for learning, and each intern benefits from learning about the experiences of other interns at other sites.
 - At SNAMHS (Las Vegas site), interns can have training experiences with inpatient forensic, inpatient civil, and outpatient clients. Interns can be involved with different treatment teams in the hospitals, thus exposing them to different psychologists, psychiatrists, and other team members. In addition to direct client care, interns can be involved in many different activities, including program development, committee work, and outreach events.
 - At the Rural Clinics (Carson City), interns can gain experience performing psychotherapy and assessment with individuals, children and adolescents. Interns gain experience working in a team environment with psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatric case managers, psychiatrists and advanced nurse practitioners.
6. Is there a particular theoretical orientation to which the internship faculty subscribes?
 - Our internship faculty have wide-ranging theoretical orientations including Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Psychodynamic, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and so forth. The sites focus on evidence-based interventions. We welcome applicants of any theoretical orientation if they are open to the possibility that their supervisor may have a different orientation.
 - SNAMHS interns receive DBT group supervision and gain experience with DBT interventions.
7. The internship consortium spans the state of Nevada. How often do interns get to meet in person?
 - The internship year begins with an in-person, 3-day orientation with the whole intern cohort and the Training Committee. The orientation traditionally occurs at Lake Tahoe (all travel expenses are paid for by the internship 😊). Orientation includes a mixture of getting-to-know you activities, learning policies and procedures, and time to socialize. Past interns have raved about the experience, and it has helped to create a lasting bond for the interns. Previous interns have said the following about orientation:
 - “I really appreciated and enjoyed NV-PIC bringing the interns to Lake Tahoe for orientation. I also thought it was great that the interns had time to bond and the dinner with the training staff, specifically the questions to get to know one another.”
 - “I really appreciated the opportunity to have orientation outside of the agency. It can be overwhelming, and this format allowed us to focus on

the learning and building of relationships. I really enjoyed the ice-breaking activities and the dinner."

- "I really liked having the opportunity to meet with the entire team including the NV-PIC supervisors and interns. I also enjoyed the ice breakers and the "fun" activities that helped the whole group get to know each other."
 - Interns and the Training Committee are brought together again for a mid-year meeting that usually occurs in Las Vegas in early February. During the mid-year meeting, the Training Committee checks in with interns to discuss their experience to that point to determine if we need to make any adjustments to the training experience. The mid-year meeting also has included a bonding activity, such as working a volunteer shift at a food bank. Interns present their proposals for their internship research project to the Training Committee during the meeting.
 - At the end of the year, interns and the Training Committee get together for a graduation celebration. This has taken different forms during the years but includes some activities in addition to a formal graduation.
 - During some years the internship has been able to pay for interns to attend a professional-level training/workshop together. For example, one year all interns attended an ethics training in Las Vegas hosted by the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) in Las Vegas.
 - Lastly, some interns choose to get together outside of internship-sponsored activities. We encourage interns to spend time together using Zoom or in person as often as they are able!
8. What are the cultural backgrounds of the clients at NV-PIC?
- The mission of our agencies is to protect, promote and improve the physical and behavioral health of the people of Nevada. Our clients are generally underserved with chronic mental illness. Las Vegas has much diversity within our population. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas was ranked the most diverse university for undergraduates according to the US News and World Report. Census Bureau estimates for 2017 indicate that approximately 32% of the population of Clark County (the county that includes the greater Las Vegas area) identify as Hispanic, 12% African American, and 7% Asian or Pacific Islander. Our clients at SNAMHS are likewise diverse, and interns have worked with clients with severe and persistent mental illness, clients who have experienced many periods of homelessness, clients who are deaf, clients who do not speak English or English is their second language, clients with physical disabilities, and clients of many different races and cultural backgrounds.
 - Rural Clinics serves all northern Nevada with clinics throughout the region. However the intern is in Carson City where the largest ethnic groups are White

68.6 % followed by Hispanic 22.9 % and Asian 3.0%. Rural Clinics serves as a safety net for people with serious and persistent mental illness in northern Nevada and telehealth including teletherapy is conducted from the Carson Clinic to outlying clinics when necessary. Interns may travel to clinics in rural and frontier areas to conduct in-person assessments.

9. I saw in the brochure that one of the NV-PIC Competencies is, “Public Behavioral Health.” What is the competency of “Public Behavioral Health?”
 - The mission of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health is to protect, promote and improve the physical and behavioral health of the people of Nevada. Because we are a division committed to public behavioral health, NV-PIC makes specific efforts to provide training in this area. Graduates of NV-PIC can expect to be competent in their understanding of public behavioral health, consideration of specific social and environmental stressors of underserved client populations, knowledge of the impact of policies, regulations, and statutes on the delivery of psychological services with underserved populations, and the critical evaluation of systems of care.

10. What kinds of psychological tests are used at the different sites?
 - At SNAMHS assessments are performed for many different referral questions/presenting issues, including:
 - Suicide risk assessment
 - Anger/aggression assessment
 - Violence risk assessment
 - Malingering
 - Differential Diagnosis
 - Competency to stand trial
 - Cognitive functioning
 - Most frequently interns use the RIAS, TOMM, M-FAST, SIMS, SIRS, WRAT, WAIS, CVLT, PAI, & MMPI-2-RF. SNAMHS has an extensive library of psychological tests that can be found here.
 - At the Rural Clinics and the Rural Regional Center assessments are conducted for cognitive functioning and differential diagnosis. Assessments include but are not limited to the PAI, MMPI-2-RF, WRAT5, WAIS-IV, WISC-V, WASI, WMS and Vineland Scales.

11. What are the opportunities for research?
 - All interns complete an intern project. The project can be quantitative, qualitative, program evaluation, program development, or teaching. It is intended to be a small project, not another dissertation. The project is expected

to be one that will provide a benefit to our public health agencies. Examples of projects done in the past include:

- Base rate of malingering among patients at Stein Forensic Facility
 - Incidence and frequency of seclusion and restraint
 - A qualitative analysis of how psychologists create individualized token economy plans for patients
 - A survey of staff regarding burnout and compassion fatigue
 - Program development of sensory room improvements
 - Program development of a formal forensic postdoctoral fellowship at Stein Forensic Facility
- Projects can use existing data sets, and, in some cases, research assistants are available to provide support.

12. What topics are covered in the didactic presentations?

- We cover a wide range of topics that are taught by our Training Committee, other internship faculty, and community psychologists. A list of prior topics can be found on the website.
- Additionally, each site provides trainings for interns/staff. At SNAMHS, interns, along with other trainees (undergraduate field placement, doctoral practicum, post-docs) and some of our psychologists, attend Friday didactics that are a mix of formal case presentations, supervision training, guest speakers, and lectures. Interns participate in bi-weekly team meetings (i.e., forensic & civil) for case consultation with psychologists, post-docs, and students. Further, all-staff meetings are held, on average, once per month when we work together on program and policy development, review committee work, and participate in in-service trainings. Additional trainings are offered throughout the year.
- At Rural Clinics there is a weekly multidisciplinary staff meeting and a weekly clinical meeting that interns are required to attend.

13. What are the strengths of your internship?

- We teach you how to work in a public health system and how to serve the underserved. You will have training in many of the roles psychologists can have, the things that make us unique. These include:
 - How to be a contributing member to a multidisciplinary treatment team
 - Providing services for a wide range of clients, including some of the most seriously ill clients.
 - Exposure to the psychology community (see below).
- Another strength of our internship is that we are continuously striving to improve. One way we do this is by soliciting program evaluations from interns multiple times a year to tell us how we are doing and how we can improve. Previous program evaluation data has indicated that interns consider our training in professionalism, training in ethical and legal standards, training in

public behavioral health, and the helpfulness of supervision (both individual and group) as strengths of NV-PIC.

14. After internship, will there be any post-doc opportunities available?

- The State of Nevada employs psychologists at many different agencies, including the NV-PIC consortium agencies (RCCC, SNAMHS), agencies that serve children and families (DCFS) and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities (ADSD). Often there are positions available in at least one of the agencies and can be filled by a post-doc (called psychological assistant in Nevada). Additionally, there are other post-doc programs in Nevada, including University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno; private practices; and other private/non-profit agencies.

15. Do interns have exposure to other psychologists in the psychological community in Nevada?

- NV-PIC has been able to pay for membership with the Nevada Psychological Association (NPA) for interns each year, and we encourage interns to attend events that NPA sponsors. NPA has an active Early Career Psychologist program with regular activities and gatherings that interns are welcome to attend. NPA hosts multiple professional continuing education events that interns can attend. NV-PIC has been fortunate to be able to send interns to NPA-sponsored trainings in the past.
- Some of our didactics are taught by psychologists outside our system, thus providing introduction to psychologists with a wide variety of specialty areas.
- Nevada has an extensive need for mental health providers, including psychologists. Because the psychological community is so small it is easy to get involved if an intern chooses to do so.