



UNDERGRADUATE PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGY

What is the Practicum in Psychology (PSY 488)?

- PSY 488 **Practicum** in Psychology is the name of the department's elective internship course for undergraduate majors. Students earn academic credit while acquiring "hands-on" experience in psychology by working within a variety of community agencies.
- **Students must formally apply** to the Psychology Department Coordinator, Janet Schichnes. Application takes place the semester **prior** to the one in which the student interns. This will allow you to find a placement and register for your fall classes during the registration period. In special circumstances, students may be allowed to apply late. However, late applications frequently cause problems for the student, agency, or faculty as it may be difficult to set up a placement in a timely manner.

Who is allowed to apply for the Practicum/internship?

The Practicum is open to psychology majors with at least junior standing (60 credits) who have a GPA of 2.5 or better and have completed at least 12 credits in Psychology when the internship begins.

Do I need to know where I want to intern before I apply?

No, but you should have some idea of the kind of experience you want to gain or the type population you want to work with. The Coordinator will work with you to identify possible placements.

How much time does the internship require?

- An intern is required to complete a minimum of fifty hours per one academic credit. Most students enroll for 3 credits.
- Students are also required to attend seminars and submit reflective journals to their instructor. Internships begin with a **required orientation**.

Are internship paid?

No. To protect the integrity of the academic experience, a student enrolled in PSY 488 cannot be paid for the same experience. However, the Practicum Coordinator can often refer students seeking part-time employment to local human service agencies.

How do I apply and what is the deadline?

- If interested in and qualified to begin an internship for the following semester, you should complete a practicum application. Email [@alaska.](mailto:janet.schichnes@alaska.edu) or stop by the department on the floor for an application.
- Ms. Schichnes will contact you to set up a brief meeting to discuss your application and potential placements to fit your personal and professional goals. Other issues concern transportation to the site and whether the practicum fits your course schedule.

Why can't I sign up for this course the way I do for any other course?

- The interview gives us a chance to understand your interests and helps to determine the appropriateness of the fit between you and a specific site. It is also an opportunity to answer your questions and make sure you have the time and motivation to complete the internship.
- Our procedures are designed to facilitate the student in locating an appropriate internship. They are not designed to eliminate a student, unless that student does not meet the department criteria.

What internship sites are currently available?

The Practicum Coordinator works with each student to identify an appropriate placement. Students have completed internships at community mental health and counseling centers, crisis intervention program, alternative youth court, a charter school, adolescent treatment program, head start center, domestic violence prevention programs and others.

When should the student contact an agency?

Once the student has been accepted as an intern, Ms. Schichnes will contact the placement site(s) on behalf of the student and will notify the student when she has found a potential field site. The student will make an appointment to discuss the placement with the agency. Once the student and the agency believe it is a good “match”, they will complete the Agency Acceptance Form and turn it into Ms. Schichnes immediately.

How will I be graded?

The class is graded P/F. To earn a passing grade, the student must complete all field hours, participate in regularly scheduled seminars, submit reflective journals and earn a satisfactory evaluation from the field supervisor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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