Application Deadline: Sept. 1, 2017
Submit application to Psychology Department, Rockwell Hall room 211

PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITIES
The Psychology Department values experiential education. To provide students with structured opportunities for such learning, examples of Practica are: Arsenal Family & Children's Center, UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program, and a Forensic Psychology practicum opportunity that involves working with a local Psychologist.

The practicum has two components: weekly activities at the specific practicum site, and meetings with the course instructor that integrate reflection on practicum activities with scholarly reading. The course, for which students receive a letter grade, requires a final paper demonstrating reflection and integration of the experience with relevant academic scholarship.

For all sites except, Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, you are required to have an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.5 in psychology courses. You are also required to be a Psychology major with at least 12 credits completed in psychology.

Exact offerings will vary by semester, but here are more details about sites where we typically place students:

Arsenal Family & Children’s Center
The Arsenal Practicum is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There is a class limit of 4 students. In this program, students learn about normal children by observing preschool children. In addition, they observe the teaching techniques used with normal children and learn about intervention strategies. Teachers meet with students to discuss various materials. Lectures are presented and teachers meet with students for discussion.

UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program
The practicum at the UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program is an innovative program designed to improve the hospital experience of older patients by exploring their past and current experiences, interest/values, and physical and psychological challenges. The practicum is 8 hours per week for the academic semester, often done in two 4-hour shifts. Orientation meetings for this practicum will take place prior to the start of the semester.

Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh
Emmaus Community serves adults with intellectual disabilities. They provide permanent homes and respite care, and are advocates for individuals in the community who are diagnosed with intellectual disabilities and/or autism. You will be at the site approximately 8-10 hours a week and scheduling is very flexible. The practicum experience will vary
depending on your individual interests and agency needs, but duties could include helping
the residents with tasks of daily living such as cooking, providing companionship (e.g.,
playing games, going out to eat), driving residents to appointments, and completing
administrative tasks. Practicum students are required to possess a valid driver's license and
must be able to pass a criminal background check. There is no minimum GPA/QPA
requirement for this site.

**Forensic Psychology Practicum**

This practicum is supervised by Dr. Eric Bernstein, a licensed psychologist who specializes in
forensic based work within Family and Juvenile Courts. This entails child custody evaluations
and work for Office of Children Youth and Family Services in matters concerning abuse,
eglect, and mistreatment of children. Practicum students will be exposed to all aspects of
this clinical practice including observing interviews, assessment, and testimony within Court.
Student activities include (1) observing and learning about the nature of a private practice
and the responsibilities and practice of performing forensic work, and (2) offering
administrative assistance such as filing, organizing, and other clerical duties. Depending
upon students’ experience and interest, they may also assist with scoring psychological
testing. This practicum requires a commitment of 8 hours per week for the entire semester.
Dr. Bernstein’s office is located in a secure office building in Station Square, and all
supervised field placement hours will occur during office hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
through Friday.

**Submitting an Application to Participate in the Psychology Practicum**

Each of the four practicum sites provides outstanding opportunities for learning and growth,
and thus they are very popular with students. Therefore, students’ qualifications for
acceptance into a practicum are assessed according to the following criteria:

**CRITERION I: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

You are required to have an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.5 in psychology courses.
Please attach your most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable) to your application.

**CRITERION II: CLASS LEVEL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

You are required to be a Psychology major with at least 12 credits completed in psychology.
Due to the popularity of the practica, preference will be given to seniors and to students
who have not previously participated in a practicum. Juniors and sophomores are welcome
to apply and may be awarded a practicum if positions are available.
Name: ________________________________________________________________

Current local address: __________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________ Email: _______________________________________

Anticipated date of graduation: __________________________________________

Please express your practicum preference

Arsenal Family & Children’s Center ____________

Forensic Psychology Practicum ____________

UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program ____________

Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh ____________

Attach a copy of your most recent transcript (an unofficial copy is acceptable) to this application.

You will be informed of the outcome of your application in time to register for the upcoming semester. Students selected for a practicum should register for PSYCH 391, Applied Psychology Practicum.

Students not selected for a practicum this time are encouraged to reapply next semester. Volunteer opportunities are also available. These provide excellent learning experiences similar to the practica along with the privilege of being of service to the community.

Note that students who have participated in one practicum may apply for a second practicum in another semester.

If you have questions about your application, feel free to contact Dr. Koelsch, koelschl@duq.edu.

Submit your application Sept. 1, 2017, to Marilyn in Rockwell Hall 211.