UNLV PRACTICE Institute of Mental and Behavioral Health
Doctoral Psychology Internship Program

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region and recognize that the university is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu (noo·woo), Southern Paiute (pai·oot) People. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to study, learn, work, and be in community with this land. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial – including the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and the Moapa (moh·aa·puh) Band of Paiutes. As one of the most diverse universities for undergraduate students in the United States, UNLV believes it is important to recognize and appreciate the use of Southern Paiute land as part of its mission to be a welcoming and inclusive place for working and learning.

I. Program Overview

Introduction

The UNLV PRACTICE Institute for Mental and Behavioral Health Doctoral Psychology Internship Program is a full-time, 12-month (July 1st – June 30th), 2,080-hour internship (including all paid time off) designed to prepare doctoral trainees for entry-level practice in health service psychology with a clinical focus on child and adolescent populations. The program was granted APPIC membership status in September 2026, and meets all internship requirements for psychology licensure in the state of Nevada and many surrounding states.

UNLV PRACTICE Institute Clinic is a dynamic community mental health clinic, offering individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy, psychological assessments, and specialty clinics to address a variety of mental health needs. UNLV PRACTICE Institute Clinic provides low cost, high quality behavioral, cognitive, and mental health services to members of the Las Vegas valley and greater Nevada community through in-person and telehealth services. UNLV PRACTICE Institute is a Medicaid provider accepting Medicaid Fee for Service and Medicaid Managed Care Organization funding sources. For all others, an application for income-based fees is available. UNLV PRACTICE Institute is an intentionally interdisciplinary teaching, training and research clinic for faculty and trainees across in the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts. The Institute trains students and residents from the undergraduate through postgraduate level in school psychology, clinical psychology, mental health counseling, couples and family therapy, social work, and psychiatric nursing.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of approximately 33,000 students and more than 3,900 faculty and staff, and is classified R1 (research university with very high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. UNLV is ranked as one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in the nation, with over 70% of its student body from underrepresented groups. UNLV has been designated as an Asian-American and Native-American, Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and as a

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

Aims & Objectives

Our overarching aim is to train scientifically minded child and adolescent clinical psychologists who are competent in assessment, intervention, and consultation. Interns will develop skills in alignment with APA's profession-wide competencies covering:

- Evidence-based assessment of children, adolescents, and their families
- Developmentally sensitive, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive intervention across modalities
- Interprofessional consultation within medical and community systems
- Scholarly inquiry and application of scientific knowledge to practice

Program Philosophy & Training Model

The Vail Training Model (Practitioner-Scholar)

Our internship program is rooted in a clinical and service-oriented culture, with a strong commitment to providing meaningful care to diverse populations. We emphasize a **humanistic approach to training and practice**, recognizing both interns and patients as whole individuals. Interns are encouraged to integrate their authentic selves into their professional roles. Providers must understand that who they are shapes how they practice.

Grounded in a deep commitment to **community service**, our program prioritizes responsiveness to the evolving needs of the populations we serve. Interns are trained to identify and address community needs with cultural (and clinical) humility, social awareness, and advocacy.

We have adopted a **progressive training model** that values critical thinking about the broader social forces that impact psychological well-being. We recognize that individuals are shaped by systems (such as racism, sexism/patriarchy, classism, ableism, heterosexism/homophobia, transphobia/cisnormativity, ageism, religious oppression, colonialism/indigenous erasure, xenophobia/immigration status discrimination), and we prepare interns to become thoughtful advocates for systemic change.

Research and scholarship are highly valued within the context of clinical service. Interns are trained in empirically-supported treatments (EST), evidence-based assessment, and integrated evidence-based practices. Our program considers research as a tool for enhancing the quality and impact of their clinical work. Consistent with our training philosophy, we place a strong emphasis on **practice driving research and influencing theory**, reinforcing the reciprocal relationship between real-world clinical experience and the development of psychological knowledge.

II. Clinical Training Activities

1. **Direct Patient Care:** Interns will average 12 to 15 hours in face-to-face direct service delivery per week. In the first trimester, interns are expected to average about 8 to 10 hours of face-to-face direct care hours. By the third trimester, interns are expected to be averaging closer to 20 hours in face-to-face direct service delivery in preparation for postdoctoral clinical engagement. **Interns will have the opportunity to provide:**

- Individual and family therapy
- Psychoeducation and skill development groups and psychotherapy groups
- One-time diagnostic consultations
- Comprehensive psychological/psychoeducational/neuropsychological testing, assessment, and evaluations
- In-person and telemental health modalities for delivery of all direct service care

2. **Supervision:** Structured supervision that progresses from directive supervision to a consultation-based model
3. **Weekly Didactics & Seminars:** A developmentally sequenced weekly didactic series and supervision seminar, totaling 4 hours per week
4. **Consultation Team Participation**: Involvement in interdisciplinary team case conferences and rounds at select locations.

Locations

UNLV PRACTICE Institute of Mental and Behavioral Health includes two community mental health clinics, offering individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy, psychological assessments, and specialty clinics to address a variety of mental health needs. The original clinic is on UNLV's main campus (Maryland Clinic) and primarily serves adults. The expansion clinic (Rancho Clinic) is in the Las Vegas Medical District and primarily serves children, adolescents, and families. Testing, assessment, and evaluation services and group psychotherapy services are available in both clinic locations. Interns are primarily assigned to the Rancho Clinic. The intern cohort attends a full day of didactics, seminars, and consultation team meetings at the Maryland Clinic weekly on Thursday.

Patient demographics are similar across both locations, with the exception of age. Patients self-identify as female (58%), male (36%), other (3%), or choose not to answer. With regard to sexual orientation, patients self-identify as heterosexual/straight (62%), lesbian/gay/homosexual (5%), bisexual (9%), queer (2%), asexual (1%) or choose not to answer. With regard to ethnicity or race, patients self-identify as White (59%), Hispanic/Latino (18%), Asian-American/Native-American/Pacific Islander (12%), multiple backgrounds (7%), Black/African American (2%), or choose not to answer.

The patients served at the Rancho Clinic typically range in age from 18 months to 26 years (although caregivers are also included in every appointment with minors). Patients served at the Maryland Clinic typically range in age from 18 to 81 years. Overall, ages served by percentage are: age 18 months-11 years (13%), 12-18 years (24%), 19-24 years (17%), 25-34 years (19%), 45-54 years (8%), and 55 years or more (4%).

Supervision

Interns receive a minimum of 4 hours of supervision weekly (2 hours individual, 2 hours group). Each intern will have supervision with at least 2 different licensed psychologists. Supervisors use live, video, and case review methods and provide competency-based evaluations at the start, midpoint, and end of the training year. Supervision progresses from directive supervision to a consultation-based model over the course of the training year.

Assessment & Therapy Modalities

- Comprehensive psychological, psychoeducational, and neurodevelopmental assessment
- Individual, family, and group therapy using trauma-informed behavioral, CBT, and third wave CBT contextual frameworks
- Parent training in behavioral management and behavioral interventions
- Interdisciplinary consultation and care coordination

Didactics & Seminars

The core curriculum (~4 hours/week) is designed to fulfill minimum levels of achievement. Topics cover APA's profession-wide competencies, such as: professional ethics, diversity, human development, child and adolescent psychopathology, assessment, intervention, supervision theory, and research literacy. Monthly seminars and case conferences emphasize culturally responsive and trauma-informed practice.

III. Assumptions & Commitments:

Our intention is to keep the MLA, Evaluation, Policies, and Procedures as clear and concise as possible. Clinical teaching and supervision are complex, interactive, and iterative processes. The program's framework must be clear and simple to administer and navigate in order to ensure adequate resources for the important work of teaching and learning. Less is more.

Las Vegas, Nevada is a unique community with a unique set of needs and challenges. Consistent with city, county, regional, and state-wide initiatives, UNLV PRACTICE Institute Doctoral Psychology Internship Program has intentionally and explicitly committed to integrating the following into our program:

- Trauma-informed approach
- Cultural responsiveness and clinical humility
- Consultation as a lifelong and integral part of professional work

Internship Program Assumptions & Commitments:

- Interns are novices. They are still learning. We assume they know less than they likely know in order to create a safe learning environment.
- Commitment to Curiosity. When concerns or problems arise, we will approach these with curiosity and willingness.
- Know Thyself for Clinical Humility. Clinical humility is rooted in knowing yourself, your place in the world, your strengths, and your weaknesses.
- Psychologists are Advocates. Patient-centered, trauma-informed, culturally responsive care inherently includes advocacy.

Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

UNLV is one of the nation's most diverse universities, with approximately 63–70% of students identifying as racial or ethnic minorities. The internship embeds diversity in every aspect of training, requiring interns to demonstrate self-awareness, cultural knowledge, and humility. Dedicated seminars, supervision focus, and community engagement projects support these competencies.

IV. Internship Admissions, Support, & Initial Placement Data

Admissions Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be doctoral candidates in APA-accredited clinical, counseling, or school psychology programs
- Have completed all coursework and qualifying exams
- Have been academically cleared by program for internship
- Have a documented minimum of 500 direct intervention and 350 assessment hours (minimum of 5 full assessment batteries; child/adolescent experience preferred)

Financial & Other Benefit Support

- Annual stipend (projected): $55,000
- Medical, dental, and vision insurance options
- 15 personal leave days
- 12 university holidays
- Professional development fund ($500)
- Main (Maryland Clinic) and Satellite Clinic (Rancho Clinic) resources:
    - Dedicated workstation
    - Clinic-assigned laptop
    - Support staff
    - Access to assessment library

Initial Placement Outcomes

[to be completed after first cohort]

V. Evaluation & Competency Benchmarks

Interns are evaluated three (3) times per year on profession-wide competencies (research, ethics, diversity, assessment, intervention, consultation/interprofessional skills, supervision, and professional values). Satisfactory completion of the internship requires competence at the "ready for independent practice" level across all profession-wide competencies.

VI. Supervising Clinical Faculty

- *Director of Training (DT)*: Adrianna Wechsler Zimring, PhD, EdM - Associate Director of Pediatric Clinical Services & Residency Training | https://www.unlv.edu/people/adrianna-wechsler-zimring
- *Interim Assistant Director of Training (ADT):* Samantha Sherwood, PhD | https://arroyobehavioralhealth.com/our-team/
- Amelia Black, PhD, CGP - Director of Clinical Services, Interdisciplinary Training, and Research for UNLV PRACTICE Institute | https://www.unlv.edu/people/amelia-black
- Yana Ryjova, PhD - Assistant Adult Program Coordinator for UNLV PRACTICE Institute | https://www.linkedin.com/in/yana-ryjova-554066383/

- Heather Phelps, LMFT - Assistant Pediatric Program Coordinator for UNLV PRACTICE Institute | https://www.theebpnv.com/heather-phelps-lmft
- Lauren Chapple-Love, PhD - Supervising Licensed Psychologist | https://www.drchapplelove.com/

VII. Application Procedures

Applications must be submitted online through the APPIC APPI Portal. Nothing should be sent separately to our program. The only materials accepted will be those uploaded with the APPI application. Our APPIC Member Number is 2680.

Applications should include three (3) letters of recommendation. Supplemental letters are not considered. A clinical work sample is also requited (e.g., de-identified assessment or treatment summary report).

Interview and Offer Timeline

- November 15, 2026, at midnight Eastern Time: Applications due
- December 4, 2026: Applicants notified by email regarding their Interview invitation status
- January 4 - 15, 2027: Virtual Interviews (90 minutes)
- February 5, 2027: APPIC Rank Order List deadline
- February 19, 2027: APPIC Phase I Match Day

VIII. Contact Information

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Las Vegas, NV 89154

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IX. Due Process & Grievance Policies

The full Due Process and Grievance Policy will be provided to all interns in the Internship Handbook and is available upon request.