

THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA

**CRITERIA FOR THE TRAINING AND FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF
INSTITUTIONS OFFERING TRAINING OF INTERN CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGISTS**

I. MAIN PRINCIPLES

In the training of intern clinical psychologists, the following main principles must be adhered to:

- A. The Training Authority**
- B. Duties of the Training Authority**
- C. The Training Programme**
- D. Maintenance of Standards**

In the training of intern clinical psychologists the following principles must be adhered to:

A. The Training Authority

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

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 year in a place approved in advance for this purpose by the Council. Any leave privilege is included in the year of such service.
2. Proper supervision of the intern's work is essential and must be exercised by at least one full-time clinical psychologist with at least 3 years experience. [Note: For Clinical Psychologists Community Service may be counted as experience]. Such supervising clinical psychologist should accept the primary responsibility for the professional moulding of the interns. 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.
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 interns and a supervising clinical psychologist exceed 4:1. Further, the training must be done in a multi-professional context. The intern must be involved as a full member of the team and should be professionally guided to progressively assume more responsibility.
4. The training authority must be able to provide the intern with wide experience in the field and must be equipped with sufficient facilities to ensure this. 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 Council may upon the recommendation of the Professional Board and its discretion, accredit the training body concerned for the proportional part or parts of the training which may be considered satisfactory.

B. Duties of the Training Authority

1. As indicated in Part II.A, it is the duty of the training authority to maintain proper supervision of the work of interns. 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.
2. Interns must also be fully integrated members of a multi-professional team at the place there they receive their training.
3. Interns must be allowed sufficient time for intern clinical conferences/ ward rounds and discussion, as well as for lectures and programmes which may be arranged by the collaborating department of psychology.
4. In the light of Article 60 of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, accredited bodies must declare themselves willing to allow the Council, 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 Council whereby they undertake to keep to their proposed training programme, to provide the requisite training and to maintain adequate supervision over the interns.
5. A quarterly progress reports must be prepared and signed by the training authority for each intern. These reports must be made available on request to the Council.
6. Quarterly meetings must be held with the collaborating university to present the intern quarterly reports for noting and remedial intervention should problems be identified.

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

C. The Training Programme

The training of interns 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.

The following can serve as guidelines:

1. Evaluation techniques and control of psychological instruments – 20% of the programme;
2. Application of psychological techniques such as assistance with the correction of problems and development – 40% of the programme;

3. Personal moulding and tuition by a mentor, participation in discussions, visits, etc. – 10% to 20% of the programme;
4. Other profession-orientated activities – 10% to 20 % of the programme;
5. At least 10% of the programme shall be devoted to aspects as contained in paragraph II B3.
6. Forensic and Community Psychology 10% each of the programme;
7. Ethics and conduct of practise must form part of the training component – a minimum of 10%

Further, interns must have access to a wide spectrum of cases, including both children and adults, 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-

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

The programme must reflect the number of leave days.

D. Maintenance of Standards

The maintenance of the standard of training, as indicated, is delegated to the psychology departments of South African universities, in collaboration with institutions approved by the Council for internship purposes, on the understanding that the final authority in this matter remains that of the Council.

1. Bodies concerned

The maintenance of the standards of training as detailed is delegated to the psychology departments of South African universities in co-operation with the institutions which the Council approves for internship purposes, on the understanding that the final authority in this matter remains that of the Council.

2. Programme of Work

Before candidates 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 psychologist in collaboration with the collaborating university psychology department, in which sufficient detail is specified about how interns will spend their time during their internship period. If practical circumstances necessitate a deviation from the planned programme of work, the supervising psychologists should arrange suitable changes and adjustments to the programme and notify both the head of the department and collaborating University.

3. Procedure in the event of unsatisfactory progress during internship training

In the event of unsatisfactory progress by the intern, the head or deputy-head of the department of the training authority concerned must liase 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 reprimand, more intensive training, warning, extension of the training or even termination of the internship. The Council must be informed immediately of any such steps taken against an intern.

In the case of termination of internship the university department concerned shall advise the Council regarding any extent to which the candidate should receive recognition for the internship training received and whether the candidate should be allowed the opportunity to complete the internship at another accredited institution.

Notwithstanding the above guidelines, the final authority for the training of interns rests with the Council. The final decision in any dispute that may arise with regard to the recognition of training of an intern likewise remains with the Council.

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.

The application for accreditation must be submitted to the Manager, Professional Board for Psychology, P O Box 205, Pretoria, 0001 for consideration by the Board at least 3 months prior to commencement of the internship.