

Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology

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Disclaimers, caveats, & provisos

- Some of the information is factual
- Some represents an informal consensus from a highly skewed sample of faculty members
- Some is just opinion
 - Not from informal survey, review of literature, or any acceptable form of data collection

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Overview

- Role of AITCN
- Houston conference guidelines
- Types of neuropsychology internship training
- Finding internships that are a good “fit”
- Applying and interviewing (thanks to Dr. Lacey)
- Characteristics of successful candidates

AITCN

- Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology
- Mission:
 - To advocate for and promote the concerns of internship training in clinical neuropsychology.
 - To provide information about internship education and training and related activities in clinical neuropsychology.
- uthsc.edu/AITCN
 - Listing of member programs
 - Useful links
 - Lots of other cool stuff

AITCN member programs: Minimum qualifications

- APA- or CPA-accredited internship
- At least 20% time on neuropsychology with medical and psychiatric patients
- Seminars and educational activities related to clinical neuropsychology
- Supervision by full-time clinical neuropsychologist
- Adjunctive activities for socialization, acculturation, and diversification of the intern

Houston conference guidelines

- “IX. Internship training in clinical neuropsychology.
 - The purpose of the internship is to complete training in the general practice of professional psychology and extend specialty preparation in science and professional practice in clinical neuropsychology. **The percentage of time in clinical neuropsychology should be determined by the training needs of the individual intern.** Internships must be completed in an APA or CPA approved professional psychology training program. Internship entry requirements are the completion of all graduate education and training requirements including the completion of the doctoral dissertation.”

Types of internship training in neuropsychology

- Programs with a neuropsychology rotation
- Specialty tracks within broader programs
- Programs primarily emphasizing neuropsychology

- The “right” type will depend on training needs of the individual applicant

Finding an internship program

- APA Division 40: div40.org
- AITCN: uthsc.edu/AITCN
- APPIC: appic.org

- These are not accrediting bodies
- Look for program that match YOUR needs
 - Strengths
 - Areas for further growth

Completing the internship application

- Proofread and spell-check everything!
- Don't pad CV
- Can have someone read all essays
- It's OK to explain truly extenuating circumstances, nondefensively

Cover letter

- Individually tailored to each program
- Highlight best aspects of CV
- Why is this program a good fit?
- Identify specific rotations or experiences
 - Check the updated website
 - Show you know the program you are applying to
 - Faculty, rotations, etc.

Letters of recommendation

- OK to include more than minimum number
- Ask people who will write you strong letters
- Letter from advisor is usual, even for a clinical internship

Preparing for interview

- Congratulations!
- Read website
- Be up-to-date about faculty interests
- Have fall-back questions if interview halts

In interview, be prepared to discuss:

- Prior cases: therapy and assessment
- Best (and, um, “least good”) aspects of training
- Overcoming difficult obstacles
- Future plans and goals

- Life outside school (shows balance)

Ranking

- Re-assess your goals for internship and beyond
 - Based on all you learned during interviewing
- Which programs prepare you for next steps?
- Which programs best address your strengths AND weaknesses?
- Consult with academic mentor
- Are you being realistic? Do they view you as a good fit?

Characteristics of successful candidates

Vary by program; MIGHT include:

- Breadth of training in general clinical psychology
- Depth of training in neuropsychology
 - Familiarity with theory and background
 - Experience with report-writing
 - Experience with patient populations
- Research experience or productivity
- Good “match” for specific aspects of the program
- Strong CV, application, and interview

Once you're there ...

- Congratulations!

- Look! It's time to apply for a postdoc!