

Doctoral Practicum Program

ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (VCBH)

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) is a department of Ventura County Health Care Agency's integrated public health care system. VCBH provides access to a full continuum of coordinated mental health and substance use treatment services that are timely, culturally appropriate, and effective to the diverse residents of Ventura County presenting with moderate to severe needs. Clients from the community are culturally diverse, with a large Hispanic population. Additionally, those needing services often struggle with hardships that can exacerbate their mental health such as being unhoused and economically unstable.

Adult Services provides treatment for those in the community who are 18 and older with moderate to severe mental illness. Services are provided in a variety of settings including in the home, in the community, in residential placements, and in outpatient clinics. Outpatient clinics are established throughout the county, equipped with multidisciplinary teams that deliver psychiatric assessments, medication services, psychological testing, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, rehabilitation services, and case management services. The Adult Mental Health Services outpatient clinics are in Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Simi Valley.

Youth and Family provides treatment for youth in the community up to 21 years old. Services include psychiatric assessment and treatment, outpatient therapy, case management, intensive care coordination, psychological testing, and acute crisis and hospitalization. As a trauma-informed agency, we provide culturally and developmentally appropriate services in clinics, schools, home, and community. We work to provide continuity of care in the least restrictive environment and prevent out of home placement. Services are integrated with other County Agencies and community-based organizations to ensure all child and family needs are met in a holistic manner. The Youth and Family Mental Health Services outpatient clinics are in Thousand Oaks, Fillmore, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura.

Mission

Ventura County Behavioral Health is committed to reducing stigma and discrimination. We promote wellness through a whole-person care approach where clients and families are empowered by appropriate, accessible, timely, culturally sensitive, and collaborative behavioral health services.

Respect □ Equity □ Integrity □ Compassion □ Collaboration □ Quality

Adult Practicum Locations

Practicum location opportunities vary annually. The 2024/2025 practicum year will provide opportunities at the following locations:

[Ventura Adult Clinic](#) (Accepting 1-2 Students)

Address: 4258 Telegraph Road, Ventura, California, United States

[South Oxnard Adult Clinic](#) (Accepting 1-2 Students)
2500 South C Street, Ste C, Oxnard, California, United States

[Oxnard North Adult Clinic](#) (Accepting 1-2 Students)
Address: 1911 Williams Drive - Ste 150, Oxnard 93036, California, United States

Youth and Family Practicum Locations

Practicum location opportunities vary annually. The 2024/2025 practicum year will provide opportunities at the following locations:

[Santa Paula Youth & Family Clinic](#) (Accepting 1 Student)
Address: 725 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, California, United States

[North Oxnard Youth & Family Clinic](#) (Accepting 1-2 Students)
Address: 1911 Williams Drive - Ste 150, Oxnard 93036, California, United States

Note: These locations are subject to change and modification

EXPECTED DUTIES AND EXPERIENCES

Students will have clinical work, administrative responsibilities, supervision, training experiences, and other tasks over the course of their practicum with VCBH. In addition to those described below, students may have other duties assigned based on clinic needs. The following outlines the anticipated tasks and estimates for how students will be using their time during the practicum.

Clinical (50%)

[Adults](#) Students will conduct comprehensive psychological testing batteries for patients with severe and persistent mental illness, including the clinical interview, test administration, test scoring, interpretation, and report writing. Typical referral questions for testing include differential diagnosis, treatment recommendations, malingering, cognitive functioning, memory capacity, and learning problems.

Students will also conduct thorough biopsychosocial assessments using appropriate measures to formulate diagnosis, determine appropriate level of care, and make treatment recommendations for community members seeking services.

[Youth & Family](#) Students will conduct thorough biopsychosocial assessments using appropriate measures to formulate diagnosis, determine appropriate level of care, and make treatment recommendations for community members seeking services.

Students will provide mental health services including individual, group and family therapy/counseling, rehabilitation, crisis intervention and case management services for youth with serious emotional disturbance utilizing culturally-sensitive, client/family-centered, strength-based, wellness and recovery models of service delivery.

Students will also conduct comprehensive psychological testing batteries for patients with severe and persistent mental illness, including the clinical interview, test administration, test scoring, interpretation, and report writing. Typical referral questions for testing include differential diagnosis, treatment recommendations, malingering, cognitive functioning, memory capacity, and learning problems.

Administrative (20%)

Students will be working in fully functioning, professional clinics; as such, they will be responsible for completion of administrative tasks consistent with the clinical work of a psychologist. This will include completing documentation of all patient contacts in county-sanctioned electronic medical records as soon as possible following patient contact, but no later than the end of the business day. Students will also be expected to complete required county compliance training and attend multi-disciplinary treatment team meetings.

Supervision/Training (25%)

All students will be under the supervision of a designated primary supervisor. Primary supervisors are all fully licensed clinical psychologists, in good standing, and meeting the requirements set forth by the Board of Psychology. All students will also be assigned delegate supervisors that are able to act in place of the primary when the primary is unavailable. Students will complete at least one hour of one-on-one supervision with their primary supervisor (or delegate in the primary supervisor's absence) each week. Students will also complete two hours of group supervision provided by one of the program supervisors each week.

Students will attend weekly, one-hour training didactics that cover topics relevant to providing mental health treatment in a culturally diverse, community mental health setting. Topics cover evidence-based treatments, diagnostics, testing and assessment, and other issues in psychology. At the end of the training year, students will be expected to give their own didactic on a topic of their choosing. Students will also have access to a variety of supplemental seminars and virtual trainings.

Additional Opportunities (5%)

Adults Students meeting and exceeding expectations will be afforded additional opportunities. Students may be able to co-facilitate group treatment, as well as develop and implement their own group therapy curriculum. Shadowing opportunities may also be provided to allow students to observe county behavioral health treatment in an inpatient setting or residential setting, mental health treatment court, and conservatorship evaluations.

Youth & Family Students meeting and exceeding expectations will be afforded additional opportunities. Students may be able to co-facilitate group treatment, as well as develop and implement their own group therapy curriculum.

TIME COMMITMENT

Students are expected to be onsite a minimum of two days per week, committing a minimum of 16 hours per week during regular outpatient clinic hours (8:00 am to 6:00pm) unless otherwise arranged. Students will not be expected to work on weekends or in the evenings.

The practicum begins at the end of August/beginning of September and completes in May, running relatively concurrent with the fall and spring semesters. Of note, students are expected to fulfill ongoing clinical obligations during their academic winter breaks.

FUNDING

VCBH is a non-profit government entity. Student funding is contingent upon grants and the subsequent stipulations. As such, student funding cannot be guaranteed. We encourage students to apply under the assumption that this is not a paid practicum.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Prerequisites to Apply

- Students must be actively enrolled in an APA accredited, Doctoral Clinical Psychology program
- Students must be in good standing with their Doctoral Programs
- Students must have successfully completed graduate level coursework in psychological testing and assessment
- Students must have successfully completed one full year of an internal practicum

Application Materials

- Approval to apply from Doctoral Program Director of Clinical Training (DCT)
- Cover Letter (please indicate which site(s) you interested in)
- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) that includes at least two references
- A **fully redacted** clinical writing sample (e.g., psychological testing report or progress note)
- Completed VCBH Clinical Training Doctoral Practicum Application:
[VCBH Doctoral Practicum Application \(office.com\)](http://vcbh.org/office.com)

Deadline for Round One Applications February 1, 2024

Deadline for Round Two Applications: April 1, 2024

Application Materials should be emailed to:

Angela Riddle, LCSW

Training and Workforce Development Manager

vcbh.internships@ventura.org