

AACCS Externship Program

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this externship program is to provide opportunities for individuals to explore careers in mental health counseling and psychotherapy within the context of Christian faith and practice. It is intended to give an insider's view of the day-to-day work life of a Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and/or Clinical Psychologist. It is also intended to offer insight into the challenges, responsibilities, and rewards of choosing either of these career paths.
2. **Program Considerations:** The externship is time-limited, offers no pay or academic credit. Informational interviews are the central part of the program. These interviews may include on-site visits to counseling offices, agencies or facilities. Where on-site visits are not possible due to privacy concerns or scheduling, informational interviews may also occur by telephone or over coffee, lunch or dinner depending on the Sponsor. Volunteers from AACCS' staff, Board of Directors, and friends or affiliates AACCS will act as Extern Sponsors. Participation of Extern Sponsors will vary from year to year.
3. **Eligibility:** This program is open to post bachelor's degree individuals and/or students who are seniors at an accredited college or university.
4. **Length and Availability:** The externship shall run for a period of 60 days between July 1, 2013 and August 30, 2013. The extern must be flexible and available for an orientation, schedule interviews, attend one educational session at AACCS, and participate in an evaluation/exit interview at the close of the program. The actual hours completed at the end of the externship will vary depending on each Sponsor's availability and offering. The goal is to provide 10-12 hours of experience or contact.
5. **Responsibilities:** Externs have complete responsibility for contacting Sponsors and for making arrangements for the externship interviews in a timely manner. In some cases, we may advise scheduling with a Sponsor as a group.

Professional conduct is expected which includes the courtesy of notifying Sponsors of any changes to scheduling, delays in arrival, dressing appropriately for interviews, and sending appropriate letters of thanks following each interview.

Because counselors and psychotherapists must adhere to strict rules of confidentiality (both legally and ethically), Externs shall also conduct themselves similarly with regard to maintaining the privacy rights of any individual(s) whose presence, name, or other identifying information may be inadvertently observed or overheard while attending the site of any Sponsor or agency related to this externship program.

A log of time spent at each externship interview or activity shall be maintained by the Externs along with notes regarding insights learned from each experience. This information will be used for the exit interview and for the purpose of issuing a Certificate of Completion at the end of the program.

6. **Requirements:** As a Christian organization, AACCS requires each Extern to agree to and sign the organization's Statement of Faith. Additionally, each Extern is required to accept and sign the Extern Release Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement. (See Attachments.)
7. **Application:** Please submit a resume along with a letter of interest stating the reasons for your interest in this program. Include any personal, academic, and/or pre-professional experience and interests that may be relevant to how you came to have an interest in mental health counseling, how your faith enters into your considerations, and questions that you hope to have addressed through this externship program. Please include two references.

Deadline for Applications: June 10, 2013

Send to: AACCS Externship Program
2550 W. Main Street, Suite 202
Alhambra, CA 91801

OR, email with attachments to: ehuang@aaccs.org

Refer questions to Eleanor Huang, Exec. Director Consultant
(310) 918-6488 (Cell)