

**SOUTH FLORIDA EVALUATION AND  
TREATMENT CENTER  
(Forensic Psychiatric Hospital)**

**PRE-DOCTORAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP  
2009 - 2010**

**18680 SW 376<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA 33034  
(786) 349-6000**



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# South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center

## Overview

South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center (SFETC) is a 238 bed forensic psychiatric hospital operated by GEOCare, Inc. Patients of SFETC are men and women who have been adjudicated by the court as Incompetent to Proceed to Trial (ITP) or were found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI). The majority of the patients are ITP and it is the goal of SFETC to restore them to competency so that they can return to court and have their case adjudicated. A typical goal for NGRI patients is to stabilize their psychiatric condition and then discharge them to a less restrictive setting when they are determined not to be a danger to themselves or others.

Nearly all mental disorders are encountered at SFETC, though the most frequent diagnoses are those of schizophrenia, mood disorders, malingering, and substance abuse or dependence.

SFETC serves a multi-lingual and multicultural population.

A number of forensic and clinical services are provided by the psychology staff to hasten the patients return to court or to the community. These include psychological assessments and testing, functional assessments of behavior, individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy, rehabilitation programs, competency evaluations, competency groups, and individual competency sessions. In addition, the department of psychology is responsible for providing advisory reports to the court, as well as expert witness testimony.

Interns are involved in a variety of assessment activities which include such things as completing intake assessments, functional assessments, suicide assessments, risk assessments and functional analyses of behavior. They also serve as a member of a treatment team, administer clinical and forensic psychological tests (including those to assess for malingering) and develop and implement behavioral programs. Interns are trained to conduct both psychotherapeutic and competency groups as well as individual competency sessions; they also carry a small caseload of individual psychotherapy patients. Interns may assist their supervising psychologist in conducting competency evaluations and preparing other types of status reports to the court. Interns may also have the opportunity to go to court with their supervisor for competency hearings and medication court.

The full time pre-doctoral internship at SFETC lasts one year, normally from September 1 to August 31 of the following year. The internship requires each intern to complete a minimum of 2000 hours of supervised experience during the year. It assumes forty hours of supervised practice per week. Interns are given time off for nine (9) holidays and

ten (10) personal days. Up to 16 hours are available for dissertation related issues and five days for attendance at professional conferences that relevant to the work of the intern. All interns receive as stipend in the amount stipulated in the APPIC listing. The title used throughout the course of the year is Psychology Intern. At the end of the year, and upon successful completion of all internship requirements, each intern is awarded a certificate of completion.

## **Miami and the South Florida Community**

South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center is located in a rural area just outside Florida City, which is approximately 30 miles south of downtown Miami and just minutes away from Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys. There is ample free parking at SFETC. Most staff members commute to work from all over Dade and Broward counties. South Florida, which includes Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, the Palm Beaches, and their respective suburbs, is a major metropolitan center of over 3 million people. South Florida offers a multitude of educational, cultural and recreational opportunities in an area well known for its superb winter climate.

## **Application Procedure**

Doctoral candidates in clinical and counseling psychology who have completed at least three years of graduate training are invited to apply. Prior training or experience in a forensic setting is not required. Applicants should have finished their practicum training but are eligible for admission to the internship before they complete their doctoral dissertation.

### **The complete application consists of the following information:**

- 1) APPIC Internship Application Form.
- 2) Current Resume or Curriculum Vitae.
- 3) Official transcript(s) of all graduate education.
- 4) Three letters of recommendation from psychologists, one of whom must be from the director of graduate training at the applicant's institution of higher learning.
- 5) A cover letter briefly describing: professional goals, experience with specific client population(s), experience with specific treatment modalities and theoretical orientation.

Personal interviews are preferred but not required for out-of-town applicants. Telephone interviews may be arranged. Applications should be postmarked by December 15 of the year prior to internship. Late applications will be considered under certain circumstances. There is no application fee. Applicants will be informed of internship decisions according to the guidelines of notification and acceptance of the Association of Post-doctoral and Psychology Internship Centers (APPIC). Application materials and other correspondence concerning the internship should be sent to:

**Allen B. Fleming, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Internship Training**  
**South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center**  
**18680 SW 376<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Florida City, Florida 33034**  
**Telephone: (786) 349-6056**  
**Fax: (305) 637-6054**

Applicants must follow the APPIC internship matching procedures for application.

This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.

### **Preliminary Requirements upon Acceptance**

At the beginning of the internship year each intern is required to undergo a background check and a physical examination, which includes the following:

- 1) Fingerprint background check (on site)
- 2) Drug screen (on site)
- 3) Physical Examination (on site)
- 4) Provide proof of immunization for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
- 5) Provide results from a current PPD antigen test for tuberculosis (on site)

SFETC initiates the above-mentioned services in the weeks prior to the beginning of the internship year and completes it during the first week of the internship. Interns should respond to any inquiries from the Human Resources Department prior to the beginning of the internship year so as to facilitate a smooth transition into the training program.

### **Goals of Training**

It is the goal of the SFETC internship program to develop interns who are well rounded in their understanding of psychology and the provision of psychological services with a special emphasis in skills pertaining to the practice of forensic psychology.

The goals of internship training are:

- 1) To develop clinical skills for assessing and treating forensic patients
- 2) To develop skills in behavioral assessment and specialized treatment planning
- 3) To develop skills necessary in dealing with forensic cases
- 4) To work with patients suffering from severe, persistent mental illness as well as co-occurring substance abuse disorders
- 5) To develop the ability to conceptualize a patient's conditions from various perspectives

The objectives of training include developing a knowledge base in clinical, behavioral and forensic psychology, treatment planning and team work, working in an institutional setting, and learning about the interface between psychology and the criminal/legal systems and community agencies.

In the course of the year interns are expected to receive training and/or experience in the following areas:

1. Forensic and clinical assessment
2. Competency restoration training
3. Clinical and forensic case presentation
4. Group psychotherapy
5. Individual psychotherapy
6. Working with the seriously mentally ill
7. Working as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team
8. Understanding of the public mental health sector
9. Writing psychological reports
10. Documentation and charting
11. Record review and data collection
12. Treatment planning
13. Behavioral observation
14. Functional behavioral assessment and behavioral interventions
15. Understanding the relationship of mental health and the law
16. Understanding of the mental health systems in South Florida
17. Ethics and professional behavior
18. Token Economy
19. Competency Evaluations
20. Court Testimony

At the beginning of the internship year each intern completes an assessment of his or her needs relevant to the learning opportunities at SFETC (see attachment 1). The purpose of this assessment is to assist in the individualization of the internship program for each intern based upon specific interests and training needs. This assessment is repeated six months into the internship and then again at the end in order to assess progress toward training goals.

The intern's direct supervisor does an evaluation of each intern each quarter and the results are sent to each intern's school (see attachment 2). The purpose of the evaluation is to communicate progress, or lack of progress, toward stated goals and to provide an opportunity for communication between intern and supervisor regarding performance.

## **Training Program**

The initial training for psychology interns consists of a two-week orientation phase. In the first week interns learn about SFETC and about safety and health issues related to working in a forensic hospital environment. In the second week interns attend specialized psychological services training with various psychologists at which time the specifics of

the intern's responsibilities are taught. By the beginning of third week interns will be assigned to offices, will have met individually with their supervisor, will have been oriented to their assigned units and will have met other treatment team members. They will begin to perform initial psychological assessments, suicide assessments and functional assessments of assigned patients. In the following days they will be assigned psychotherapy groups to run and will begin to work with individual patients. Additional tasks will be added in the following days as specific training is provided that prepares interns to assume those tasks.

Ongoing training features a weekly training seminar on issues with direct bearing on issues relevant to forensic psychology. During the year the interns will also visit a variety of off-site programs in order to learn more about the interaction between the hospital and the court system as well as continuity of case with community treatment providers. Site visits may include community programs, other forensic facilities and court hearings.

Each intern also functions as a member of an inter-disciplinary treatment team which provides the intern with an opportunity to broaden his/her knowledge within a setting that includes other mental health professionals.

Each intern can expect to receive approximately 4 hours of formal training and supervision per week.

## **Clinical Supervision**

The Department of Psychology consists of seven (7) full time licensed, doctoral level psychologists, including The Director of Psychology/Director of Internship Training. Five psychologists work on units of approximately 55 patients providing a full range of forensic psychological services. One psychologist provides forensic consultation and support services to each unit-based psychologist and assists with competency evaluations and competency report writing. The intern works directly with their supervising psychologist and receives at least one hour of direct formal supervision from the supervising psychologist. This supervision may involve in-vivo supervision, mentoring, and/or modeling.

The interns also meet with the Director of Internship Training or designee once a week for one hour of clinical supervision. Unlike the supervision with the primary supervisor (which focuses primarily on forensic training) this supervision session is intended to focus primarily on clinical cases on which the intern is working.

Formal evaluations of the intern's performance are made four times a year. At each evaluation, the intern and her/his supervisor assess the intern's progress toward training goals. The evaluations are performed by the supervising psychologists and shared with the intern.

All services that are provided by the intern are monitored and his/her documentation in the medical record is co-signed by the supervisor.

## **Performance Expectations of the Psychology Intern**

Each intern will provide the Director of Internship Training and his/her direct clinical supervisor with the assessment of his/her learning needs and goals. This assessment will be utilized to individualize the training program for each intern. Over the course of the year an intern is generally expected to complete the following:

1. A minimum of four (4) groups (psychotherapy groups and competency restoration groups) per week as a primary facilitator or co-facilitator.
2. At least two (2) individual psychotherapy therapy sessions per week, as assigned by the supervising psychologist.
3. Attendance at treatment team meetings as needed.
4. Two (2) hours of individual supervision per week.
5. Attendance at the intern seminar.
6. A minimum of five (5) assessment reports involving psychological testing during the course of the internship.
7. Assist their supervision with the preparation of reports to the court.
8. Perform functional analyses and develop two individualized behavioral programs.
9. Conduct two case presentations.
10. Complete Initial psychological assessment reports as assigned.
11. Other tasks as assigned by the primary supervisor or Internship Training Director/designee.
12. Observe/assist supervisor in performing competency examinations.
13. Observe a court hearing regarding competency hearing or a medication hearing.

## **Patient Population**

The patients at SFETC are committed by the criminal justice system as either incompetent to proceed to trial (ITP) or not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI). Of the 238 patients approximately 70 are females. The infirmary is designated to care for medically compromised individuals. Ethnically the patients are a diverse group of individuals, paralleling the population of South Florida (Caucasian, Hispanic, African American, Haitian, Caribbean, and on occasion immigrants from other countries).

Clinically, the majority of patients have serious mental illness, mostly schizophrenia and delusional disorders. However, other clinical conditions are also represented. Affective disorders are common, so are borderline personality disorders and other personality disorders. Issues of anti-social personality disorder, malingering, developmental disorders and neurological symptoms are frequent. Many patients also have substance abuse histories and are most commonly dually diagnosed. While every resident has criminal/legal involvement in her/his situation, they mirror many conditions that are found in residential programs in the community and in psychiatric hospitals.

## **Due Process Procedure**

It is the policy of the internship program and SFETC to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and which helps interns to achieve their professional goals. Should, in the course of the internship, a disagreement between the intern and supervisor arise SFETC has a procedure to assure that the dispute is heard and resolved in a satisfactory manner. To this end, a grievance and due process procedure has been instituted. Interns will be informed of the training expectations and the due process procedure at the beginning of the internship.

The Internship Program at SFETC encourages interns and supervisors to try to work out disagreements and complaints with an informal discussion between interns and the supervisors. The intern's graduate program will be fully informed of the intern's progress, training issues, and disagreements/complaints as they arise.

In cases in which an intern is dissatisfied with his/her supervision or some conditions of the internship and an informal discussion between the intern and his/her supervisor is insufficient to bring about a resolution then the intern is invited to request that the Internship Training Director intervene. The Internship Training Director will investigate the dispute and attempt to bring about a resolution. If the intern thinks that the Internship Training Director has not adequately addressed the grievance, the intern then may request of the Internship Training Director, in writing, to present his/ her grievance to the GeoCare corporate Director of Clinical Programs. The Director of Clinical Programs will arrange to meet with the intern at the earliest convenient time to consider the grievance and to coordinate a resolution. The Director of Clinical Programs may wish to meet with the primary supervisor, the Internship Training Director and possibly the Hospital Administrator in the course of investigating the claim. The decision of the Director of Clinical Programs shall be considered to be final.

In the case of a supervisor being dissatisfied with an intern a similar due process procedure will be initiated by the primary supervisor. Minor cases are expected to be handled between the intern and his/her primary supervisor. If this proves to be insufficient the primary supervisor will inform the Director of Internship Training and corrective action will be discussed. If the infraction is deemed to be more serious then the Intern's graduate program, the GeoCare corporate Director of Clinical Programs, the Director of Human Resources and the Hospital administrator may all be consulted. Resolution could range from a corrective action plan to termination of the internship.

If an ongoing (minor) problem is discovered, or more than one intern makes similar errors, such problems and/or errors can be the result of a lack of relevant training. The Director of Internship Training will be notified in order for him/her to address this issue in a training session.

## **Evaluation Procedure**

The interns are formally evaluated four times a year.

At the start of the internship year every intern fills out a form entitled, “Interns Skills Self-Assessment” (attachment 1). This form provides baseline information. The intern discusses his/her self-assessment with his/her clinical supervisor, to determine his/her self-perceived knowledge base.

This self-assessment is completed after six months and then again at the end of the internship. The supervisor also completes a parallel evaluation entitled, “Supervisor’s Intern Assessment” (attachment 2) quarterly. These two forms allow for a discussion of the intern’s progress and for a comparison of the intern’s self-perception and the supervisor’s report. It gives an opening for discussion of the intern’s progress.

If the intern’s school has a specialized assessment form that is required, the primary supervisor will complete both the school’s form and SFETC’s form.

**INTERN SKILLS SELF-ASSESSMENT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SKILLS AND NEEDS FOR TRAINING**

In completing this rating scale, score 1 when the assessed skill is low and the need is high, score 5 when the skill is high and the need is low. Scores of 2, 3, and 4 will indicate intermediate levels of skill and need.

**1. Skill in individual therapy**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments (what population, type of experience etc.)

**2. Skill in group therapy**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**3. Clinical assessment experience (I.Q., Objective/Projective Tests, etc.)**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments (what testing tools, how many done, etc.)

**4. Forensic assessment experience (HCR-20, Psych Assessment, Malingering)**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**5. Individual competency sessions**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**6. Competency groups**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**7. Working with the severely mentally ill**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**8. Working within an inter-disciplinary treatment team**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**9. Making case presentations**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**10. Writing clinical reports**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**11. Writing forensic reports**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**12. Documentation and charting**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**13. Gathering clinical information from records**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**14. Skill in Dialectical Behavior Therapy**

Very Low 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Very High 5
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Comments

**15. Skill in Cognitive Therapy for Psychosis**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**16. Skill in Anger Treatment**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**17. Behavioral observation and monitoring**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**18. Behavioral assessment and therapy**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**19. Knowledge of the relationship between the mental health system and the law**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
1	2	3	4	5

Comments

**20. Working within a multicultural environment**

Very Low	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Very High
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1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Comments

**21. Knowledge of the mental health services in South Florida**

Very Low      Marginal      Adequate      Good      Very High  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Comments

**22. The professional role of the psychologist in the public mental health system and legal/ethical issues associated**

Very Low      Marginal      Adequate      Good      Very High  
1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Comments

**23. List areas of training that are of primary interest to you**

**22. In what areas do you want to become more proficient during your internship?**

**SUPERVISOR'S INTERN ASSESSMENT**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 INTERN'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EVALUATION PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of hours of supervised experience: \_\_\_\_
2. Number of hours of group therapy per week: \_\_\_\_
3. Average number of individual therapy per week: \_\_\_\_
4. Number of assessments done during this period: \_\_\_\_
5. Number of test batteries during this period: \_\_\_\_
6. Number of hours of individual supervision per week: \_\_\_\_

**On a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) rate the performance of the above individual this period.**

1. Ability to conduct individual therapy	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
2. Ability to conduct group therapy	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
3. Ability to conduct a clinical assessment	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
4. Ability to conduct a forensic assessment	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
5. Ability to conduct individual competency sessions	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
6. Ability to conduct competency groups	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
7. Working with the seriously mentally ill	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
8. Working as an inter-disciplinary team member	Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	

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	1	2	3	4	5	NA
9. Making case presentations	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
10. Writing clinical reports	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
11. Writing forensic reports	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
12. Documentation and charting	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
13. Reviewing a collecting data from records	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
14. Ability to use DBT	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
15. Ability to use Cognitive Therapy for Psychosis	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
16. Ability to use Anger Treatment	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
17. Behavioral observations and monitoring	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
18. Behavioral assessment and therapy	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
19. Knowledge of mental health and the law	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
20. Ability to work within a multicultural environment	Unsatisfactory 1	Marginal 2	Adequate 3	Good 4	Excellent 5	NA
21. Knowledge of the mental health system in South Florida						

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Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	
1	2	3	4	5	NA

22. Professional behavior

Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Adequate	Good	Excellent	
1	2	3	4	5	NA

23. General Comments on questions 1-22

24. General comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the individual and the improvements in skills since the start of the internship

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