



Application Process and Selection Criteria

The South Dakota Psychology Internship Consortium (SD-PIC) currently offers three full-time intern positions.

A complete application consists of the following materials:

- 1) A completed online AAPI (APPIC's standard application)
- 2) Cover letter stating your preferred training site(s) and why you are interested in those sites specifically. Applicants may indicate their interest in more than one site within the consortium without providing additional cover letters.
- 3) A current Curriculum Vitae
- 4) Three standardized reference forms, two of which must come from individuals who have directly supervised the applicant's work (*please do not submit more than three letters*)
- 5) Official transcripts of all graduate coursework
- 6) Supplementary Materials (*please ensure that materials are redacted appropriately*):
 - a. One full integrated assessment report
 - b. A one-page clinical case conceptualization

SD-PIC will base its selection process on the entire application package noted above; however, applicants who have met the following qualifications prior to beginning internship will be considered preferred:

1. APA accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology
2. A minimum of 400 intervention hours
3. A minimum of 50 assessment hours
4. Dissertation proposal defended and IRB approval granted
5. Experience or special interest in working with diverse populations and/or in rural or underserved areas

SD-PIC firmly believes that all forms of diversity serve to enhance the training environment and professional growth of interns and faculty alike, as well as allow the diverse range of patients served to see themselves in their providers. Applicants are individually evaluated in terms of quality of previous training, practicum experiences, and fit with the internship, as well as considered for the diversity that they may bring to the program. In addition to the preferences noted above, SD-PIC takes into consideration the potential commitment or interest of any prospective intern to remain in the South Dakota region following internship and work in behavioral health. Developing a strong behavioral health workforce is an important consideration for the state, and an interest in remaining in the Midwest to join the workforce is to be considered a benefit in a potential intern.

All interns must undergo comprehensive background checks and screening per the agency's Human Resources procedures. Requirements include background check, fingerprinting, Tuberculosis test, drug screen, and up-to-date vaccinations.

Finally, interns will be required to purchase student liability insurance through the APA Trust for the period of the internship training year.

Students interested in applying for the internship program for the 2023-2024 training year should submit their AAPI and accompanying materials via email directly to Dr. Joel Merkwan (Joel.Merkwan@state.sd.us) and Dr. David Dracy (David.Dracy@lcbhs.net).

Applicants are encouraged to apply to as many or as few training sites within SD-PIC as they choose and should specify the site(s) they wish to be considered for in a cover letter/email, as noted above. Only one complete application is required for consideration to either of the sites in the Consortium.

Questions regarding the application or interview process may be directed to either of SD-PIC's Program Director(s), Dr. Joel Merkwan (Joel.Merkwan@state.sd.us) and Dr. David Dracy (David.Dracy@lcbhs.net), or to the program's WICHE consultant, Dr. Karly Dickinson (kdickinson@wiche.edu).