

SFDPH/CSPP STIPENDED RESEARCH PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE

Research and Program Evaluation Collaboration Between

Alliant International University/California School of Professional Psychology
And

Office of Quality Management – Community Programs/San Francisco Department of Public Health

Overview

Since 2008, a standing memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding doctoral level research training has existed between the Research Unit of the Office of Quality Management (OQM), Community Programs, SF City and County Department of Public Health (SFDPH) and the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP) at Alliant International University (AIU).

This collaboration is a unique opportunity for both **CSPP Clinical Psychology (Ph.D.)** students and faculty members to become involved in research and evaluation with the primary research and evaluation unit (OQM) of the Department of Public Health, Community Programs. This collaboration offers three to four Ph.D., students a full-year paid practicum opportunity in working with research psychologists and staff in a unique culturally oriented public health setting. The setting offers multiple possibilities in developing new research topics or towards working in on-going county funded projects that offers a potential storehouse of data for the first research project and/or a dissertation. The research unit at OQM collects data that captures unique perspectives of health, mental health and substance abuse prevention, treatment, and policy transitions for a San Francisco based multicultural and diverse population of adults, youth, children and families.

One of the core responsibilities of OQM is to evaluate the outcomes of integrated behavioral health services. A second primary focus of the research unit is to engage in research to develop knowledge about the effectiveness of particular treatments with the diverse populations served in San Francisco. OQM sees a collaboration with CSPP as a way to increase capacity to conduct program evaluation research while giving students valuable real-world research experience. They also see this as an opportunity for CSPP faculty and students to partner with CBHS in applying for research grants in areas of mutual interest.

Collaboration Objectives

Key collaboration objectives include the following:

- 1) To allow both students and clinical psychology faculty an opportunity to be placed at SFDPH to conduct evaluation research through primary data collection or using secondary large health data sets, working alongside researchers and evaluators from SFDPH (Research projects must receive IRB and OQM approval).
- 2) To develop joint studies in applied community research that will result in joint publications with CSPP and OQM. Possible projects to emerge from this collaboration might include joint federal and state grants for both evaluation and research.

Stipends

OQM and CSPP jointly contribute a stipend of \$3000 for a total of \$6000 per student per year, for a one year commitment of approximately 8 – 10 hours per week. For each fiscal year, OQM/CSPP is providing stipends for up

to 3 students. The one year period begins at the time the student begins their practicum at CBHS (usually in the Fall), even if that spans different fiscal years. Tauber Fellows are ineligible for the stipends but eligible for participation. Funds are allocated twice a year to the practicum students.

CSPP Responsibilities

- 1) Dr. Davis Ja serve as faculty liaison to OQM/REQM.
- 2) CSPP faculty liaison publicize research practicum opportunities and will pre-screen and interview practicum candidates prior to referring them to be interviewed by OQM research staff.
- 4) CSPP faculty liaison participate in meetings to define practicum responsibilities and expectations, and to establish the co-supervision relationship.
- 5) CSPP faculty co-supervise research practicum students, as determined jointly with OQM staff.
- 6) CSPP faculty liaison ensure that the quality of the student's contribution is consistent with the standards expected of CSPP doctoral students, and ensure that the student is meeting their hourly weekly time commitment based on feedback from OQM staff.
- 7) CSPP faculty interested in conducting research with OQM client populations or datasets will get initial approval of the research idea from OQM administration, and will obtain IRB approval as needed.

OQM Responsibilities

- 1) Identify appropriate research and evaluation projects for CSPP students
- 2) Communicate research and evaluation needs, including minimum qualifications and expectations, to CSPP faculty responsible for identifying possibly student matching OQM needs.
- 3) Interview CSPP students interested in placement, and make recommendations for selection.
- 4) Meet jointly with CSPP student and faculty co-supervisor to clarify project responsibilities and supervision methods.
- 5) OQM provide weekly supervision to CSPP students
- 6) OQM ensure that CSPP students engage in meaningful research and evaluation activities that will contribute to the development of clinical research skills. Such opportunities could include helping to set up evaluation systems; gathering, entering, and analyzing data; co-writing reports, etc.
- 7) OQM provide workspace and computers for student use

CSPP Practicum Student Responsibilities

- 1) Practicum student sign an MOU defining their commitment to OQM during the practicum period
- 2) Students participate in meetings with OQM staff during their assigned work hours
- 3) Students meet project expectations as defined in initial meetings with OQM research staff and CSPP faculty.
- 4) Students complete the year commitment, commencing at the first day of their participation on the project.
- 5) Students engage in professional office decorum, including professional office attire and communication.
- 6) Students provide a minimum of 8 hours up to a maximum of 10 hours per week in this practicum.
- 7) Students are required to meet weekly for supervision with faculty liaison in either individual or group format.

Requirements and Application Procedures

This practicum is offered to CSPP enrolled Ph.D., students in Clinical Psychology in good academic standing. This offer is primarily aimed at either first or third (and fourth) year students. All applicants must have had at least one year of prior research experience. Good writing skills are also highly recommended. Qualified candidates with strong organizational skills who are detailed oriented are strongly encouraged to apply. All interested students must submit a cover letter, resume and a sample of research (or other) writing to Dr. Davis Ja (dja@alliant.edu).

There will be two interview procedures, all applicants will first be paper screened by CSPP faculty liaison. Those candidates selected will be interviewed by the faculty liaison. Those selected will be forwarded to OQM for a final interview and selection process by OQM researchers. This process generally takes 6 to 8 weeks.