



WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC



2025-2026

DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
in Clinical Psychology

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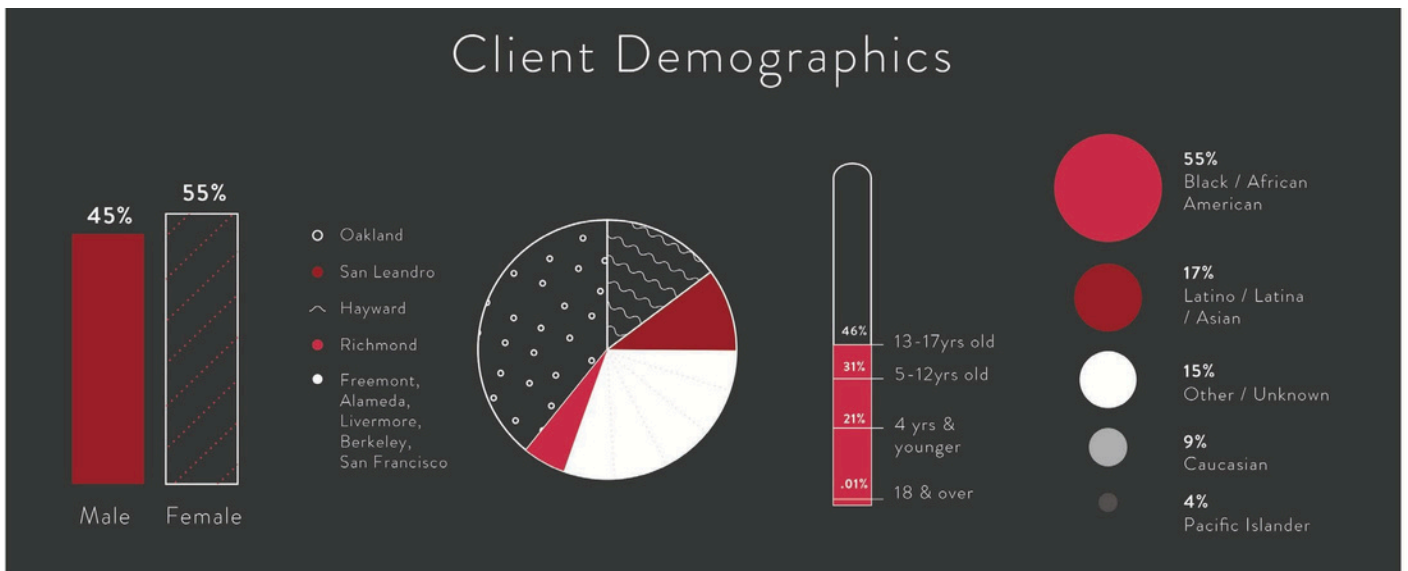
OUR MISSION

HELPING CHILDREN DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY CAN BECOME



WestCoast Children's Clinic, located in Oakland, California, is a non-profit community psychology clinic that has provided mental health services to Bay Area children since 1979. Our mission is threefold: 1) to provide psychological services to vulnerable children, adolescents, and their families regardless of their ability to pay; 2) to train the next generation of mental health professionals; and 3) to improve services to children and families by conducting research on the impact of clinical services, and utilizing findings to advocate on behalf of the children we serve.

Annually we serve over 1,700 children, who are living at or below the poverty level. Our clients have experienced physical or sexual abuse, neglect, disrupted attachments to caregivers, and/or community violence. Most of these children have been removed from their families due to abuse or neglect. Sixty-five percent are currently in foster care, with the remaining at risk of entering foster care.



TRAINING AT WESTCOAST

DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

WestCoast Children's Clinic offers a one-year, full-time APA-accredited internship program for doctoral students in psychology. This brochure provides an overview of our program and the application process.

The Internship Training Program at WestCoast is committed to developing community psychologists: expanding one's consciousness with regard to diversity and social justice; working with foster youth and other vulnerable children and their families; providing care in the communities where clients live; and advocating for them when needed. We work with children, youth and families who often have very difficult life circumstances and may have very serious symptoms. We see clients at our clinic office as well as in the community—at their schools and homes—and work primarily from a psychodynamic and systems perspective. Trauma theory and research within the context of cultural, racial, and individual diversity underlies our work.

We see training as a developmental process and seek interns who are open to learning, challenge, and supervision. We look for interns who are comfortable working clinically with children, youth, parents, and other caregivers; have training and experience in psychological assessment; have worked within interconnected systems; have an interest in working within communities; have



good writing skills; and are or have been in their own psychotherapy.

The Internship Program at WestCoast Children's Clinic's is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), and is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Our program offers internship-level placements to predoctoral students in psychology currently attending APA-Accredited programs.

Students accepted into the Intern Training Program (ITP) contract for a 12-month, 40-hour per week commitment. The Internship begins August 4, 2025. Eight full-time positions are available through the APPIC match.

INTEGRATING SERVICE & LEARNING

DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE LONG-TERM INDIVIDUAL CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY, PARENT AND OTHER CAREGIVER GUIDANCE, CONSULTATION, PSYCHODIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC-COLLABORATIVE/SYSTEMIC ASSESSMENT.

Internship Training Program in Clinical Psychology

The Internship Training Program integrates training and direct service. Interns are embedded within both the Outpatient Therapy Program and the Therapeutic Assessment and Systems Collaboration Program, providing a range of psychological services including: child and adolescent therapy; family therapy; parent and other caregiver guidance; psychodiagnostic and therapeutic-collaborative assessment. Interns provide psychological services within the community—at schools, in homes, and in other neighborhood spaces—enhancing the partnerships between WestCoast and clients’ community support systems. They also consult within community agencies and collaborate with other professionals.

variety of ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, including immigrants and clients from marginalized groups.

As many of our clients are involved in the foster care system, working closely with social workers, foster parents, group home providers, and others in the children’s system of care is paramount. The single most common feature of our clients is exposure to trauma – often, complex developmental trauma. We provide long-term psychotherapy, parent guidance, and clinical case management services aimed at helping clients heal from the impacts of trauma, develop healthy relationships and handle the challenges in their daily lives.

Outpatient Therapy Program

In the Outpatient Therapy Program interns work alongside staff clinicians which include psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, providing therapy at our clinic site and in the community. Our clients are children and youth who come from a



Therapeutic Assessment & Systems Collaboration Program

Psychological assessments at WestCoast are viewed as both a diagnostic evaluation and a collaborative, therapeutic intervention. In our selection of test instruments and interpretation of data, we are sensitive to the impact of racial, ethnic, and cultural identity, environmental factors, and other aspects of the child's experience on performance and behavior. The diagnostic questions raised often necessitate examining the underlying causes of behavior problems. Our batteries have a strong collaborative component; we involve other service providers and families, including the child or youth, in generating questions they want answered, and we make multi-system referrals to support people and services. Interns develop skills in writing reports in accessible language for parents, social workers and other treatment providers, and providing letters and stories as feedback to the children and youth assessed. Interns are introduced

to the principles of Therapeutic Collaborative Assessment, a process developed by Dr. Stephen Finn. Assessments at WestCoast require considerable clinical acumen and testing skill, and our training curriculum supports the development of these competencies.

Training Model

The Internship Program subscribes to a practitioner-scholar model. Training components are organized to build on previous experiences and learning to maximize the transfer of theoretical understanding to practical application. Teaching occurs through a combination of supervised professional experience, didactics, case-based presentations, observational learning, and consultative guidance to increase clinical understanding.

The training year begins with an intensive orientation period, designed to help the interns acclimate and integrate into the agency, and acquaint them with the agency's philosophy, policies, and procedures.



The Internship Training Program Director and training faculty review expectations, feedback, evaluations, grievance procedures, due process, and other relevant areas.

During the orientation period interns begin to build their caseloads with direction and guidance from clinical supervisors. Interns' level of knowledge and experience in testing, scoring, interpretation, and writing is assessed through review of their sample test reports and the completion of a written assignment (a report based on a clinical vignette and testing data) and an initial self-evaluation. The information gathered aids in understanding each intern's skills, as well as establishing a group baseline used to calibrate the teaching level for the seminars.

Individual And Cultural Diversity

WestCoast Children's Clinic is a learning community, where integrated personal and professional development are pursued in order to match our clients' desire for change in their lives.

Respect for cultural and individual diversity is reflected in the program's policies for the recruitment, retention, and development of staff and interns, and in didactic and experiential training. The program has nondiscriminatory policies and operating conditions and avoids any actions that would restrict program access on grounds that are

irrelevant to success in an internship or the profession.

WestCoast is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to diminishing the influence of privilege and discrimination in our field and our workplace relating to differences in age, race, ethnicity, creed, disability, gender, genetic information, marital or parental status, medical condition, national origin or ancestry, religion, registered domestic partner status, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status.

The Internship begins
AUG 4, 2025

8

Full-time positions
are available
through the APPIC
match

Students accepted into the Intern
Training Program (ITP) contract
for a 12-month, 40-hour per week
commitment.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The internship is organized to address the development of skill areas: psychotherapy with children, adolescents, and families; psychological assessment; and intake interviewing. Additionally, interns participate with the agency's clinical staff in agency-wide trainings that include Grand Rounds presentations as well as didactic and experiential exercises. Efforts are made to include content experts and community professionals as consultants and instructors for specific topics. Awareness of diversity and culture is promoted throughout the training.

Supervision

Licensed psychologists and mental health professionals provide all clinical supervision. Specialized consultation is also made available. Each intern receives three hours of individual supervision (1.5 in outpatient therapy and 1.5 in assessment) and two hours of group supervision (Case Conference) each week. Video and or audio taping of sessions, process notes, and case reports are some methods used in supervision.

Case Conference (2 hours/week)

Initial meetings set the format and structure of the case conference. The case conference leader is more active in guiding the discussion in the first few months of the year, highlighting important theoretical underpinnings and multicultural awareness, facilitating case conceptualization, and drawing out each

intern's perspective. Later in the year, the case conference leader focuses on facilitating the group, encouraging interns to engage with each other through peer consultation and take greater responsibility for discussion. Discussions of assigned readings on various topic areas including diversity, working in the community, working with children in care, and theory are included.

Clinical Seminar (1.5 hours per week)

focuses on the theoretical and practical aspects of working with children, youth, and families. Each meeting has both didactic and discussion components. Interns present current clinical material, which is used to illustrate and enhance understanding of the concepts presented and discussed. As seminars progress and are at more advanced levels, interns must demonstrate the integration of theoretical understanding into practice. Invited guest trainers include community providers and content experts. Readings accompany the seminar.



Therapeutic Collaborative Assessment (TCA) Seminar (1.5 hours per week)

focuses on developing competence in the administration, scoring, and interpretation of various assessment measures, and on the integration of data into a meaningful, accessible report using the principles of the Therapeutic Collaborative Assessment model. The seminar includes didactic training in child assessment instruments and a focus on such topics as learning disorders and neuropsychology. An emphasis is placed on deepening understanding of test findings and the child's experience, writing readable reports, and providing feedback within the client's multiple systems. Presentations of active cases are a way for interns to engage in the material and integrate their learning.. Interns also attend monthly assessment trainings with experts from the field.

Assessment Administration Seminar/Lab (1.5 hours per month)

is led by postdoctoral residents to provide ongoing support in test administration, scoring, interpretation, and report writing.

Assessment Seminar

(1.5 hours per week)

focuses on the complexities of administering, scoring, and interpreting the Rorschach and other performance based assessment measures. The seminar begins as a didactic, covering topics including administration, scoring, and interpretation. Later sessions are focused on clinical applications through discussion of the intern's client protocols. The Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS) is taught and used.

Supervision Seminar

(1.5 hours/2x per month)

is a twice monthly consultation space for interns to discuss the nature of their work supervising 1st year practicum students and get consultation, present and review models of supervision, and apply these models to their work with supervisees.

Radical Healing Series

(1.5 - 2 hours per month)

is a monthly community building space where we invite healers from the local community (and perhaps beyond) to join us to talk about their healing practices. The aim is to create a space where we can work toward decolonizing therapy, promote community healing, and expand our thinking around healing practices.

Agency-Wide/ Program Specific Trainings (4-6 hours/month)

Examples of trainings from previous years include:

- *Decolonizing Wellness and Liberation* with Eneida Sosa, Psy.D.
- *Trauma-Responsive Sandtray Therapy with Children and Adolescents* with Richie Rubio, Ph.D.
- *Neurodivergent-Affirming Approaches to Clinical Work* with Maggie Benedict-Montgomery, Ph.D.
- *Developmental Approaches to Transracial Adoption - Working with Adoptive Families* with Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander, LMFT
- *Professional Development Workshop: Public Service Loan Forgiveness* with Sara Pollock, Psy.D.
- *Understanding Child Welfare Systems* with Lea Broh, LCSW

Small group discussions provide opportunities to apply and integrate the information presented during the trainings.

Intern Process Group (1.5 hours/mo)

is facilitated by a mental health professional from the community and aids the interns in reflecting on their training experience, and integrating these aspects of experience into their understanding of themselves as developing professional psychologists.

Retreats (day long)

are held twice a year at a site away from the agency and are facilitated by the training faculty.

Retreats (cont.)

The retreats serve as a time to focus on group development as well as to reflect on the individual experience at the internship. Providing support and developing self-care practices are core components of the retreats.

Training Progress Meetings

At the beginning of the training year, interns develop their goals and objectives for the training year in conversation with their supervisors. Interns receive written feedback about their progress and performance at least twice during the year. In addition, Training Progress Meetings (TPMs) are held twice during the year. The intern's Supervisors, Case Conference Leader, Intern Training Program Director and the intern participate in these meetings to discuss the intern's learning progress and to identify the intern's strengths as well as areas of needed growth.

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures:

We follow the guidance at the State and local level for prevention of Covid-19 for individuals to protect themselves by the recommended but not required use of masks (KN95 or higher). Similarly we strongly recommend but not require COVID-19 vaccination/booster. While the majority of our clients are now seen in person, we continue to utilize a hybrid model of care that includes a combination of telehealth and in-person services. Decisions around modality are centered on client need and a determination of what is clinically indicated. When delivering in-person services, we follow safety protocols to ensure the safety of our interns and the community we serve.

AIMS OF THE INTERNSHIP TRAINING

AIM 1

Provide a doctoral internship of exceptional quality that combines intensive and diverse professional experiences, supervision and mentoring from a skilled faculty, interactive seminars and agency wide trainings within a context of individual and cultural diversity.

AIM 2

Foster the development of an entry-level skills in the Profession Wide Competencies (PWC), which are as follows:

- I:** Research
- II:** Ethical and Legal Standards
- III:** Individual and Cultural Diversity
- IV:** Professional Values and Attitudes
- V:** Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- VI:** Assessment
- VII:** Intervention
- VIII:** Supervision
- IX:** Consultation and Interprofessional/Interdisciplinary skills

AIM 3

Foster the development of entry-level skills in Program Specific Competencies, which are as follows:

- I:** Psychological and Therapeutic Collaborative Assessment (TCA) with Children & Families
- II:** Understanding and Application of Trauma, Attachment, and Developmental Theories
- III:** Community Based Therapy and Assessment with Children & Families
- IV:** Foster Youth Systems
- V:** Quality of Administrative Work and Documentation
- VI:** Culturally Responsive Therapy and Assessment

AIM 4

Promote the career development of doctoral interns, facilitating an informed choice of their next step professionally

- I:** Increase interns' awareness of career options and post-internship opportunities
- II:** Support interns in searching for post-internship positions

SAMPLE WEEKLY INTERN SCHEDULE

MONDAYS

Direct service, and Assessment Lab or Supervision Seminar

TUESDAYS

9-10:50 Case Conference

10:50-12:30 Assessment Seminar

12:30-5 Direct service

WEDNESDAYS

9-5:00 Direct Service and supervision

THURSDAYS

9-10:50 Clinical Seminar 11:30-12:30 Therapeutic

Collaborative Assessment Seminar 12:30-5:00 Direct Service

ALTERNATING FRIDAYS

Process group, Radical Healing Series, and Assessment Program Training

Interns are required to spend a minimum of 15 hours per week providing direct service.

INTERN SELECTION

Applicants to WestCoast's internship program are selected based on criteria that includes academic preparation, clinical experience working with diverse populations, assessment writing skills and strong letters of recommendation. We are looking for individuals who value social justice and are willing to engage in conversations about race, power, privilege, and diversity in all forms. Strong candidates possess a perspective that is consistent with our agency mission, population and culture. Individuals who are of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds, in addition to those who represent a variety of gender identities, sexual orientations, and diverse life experiences are strongly encouraged to apply.

Academic Preparation

- Currently attending an APA-Accredited graduate program.
- In good academic standing and deemed ready by the applicant's school to apply for internship as evidenced in the APPIC online application.
- Coursework in child and adolescent development, child psychopathology, family functioning, and psychological assessment including training on the Rorschach (Exner System or R-PAS).
- Child psychological assessment coursework preferred.
- Knowledge of trauma and attachment research and theory.

Diversity & Multicultural Interest & Experience

- Interest in and experience with diverse and multicultural populations.
- Self-reflective awareness of one's own culture.
- Academic classwork in multicultural awareness and/or diversity training is preferred.

Clinical Experience

- Ideally, Completion of a minimum of 300 intervention hours as part of the doctoral program, however we understand the impact of the pandemic on training opportunities and we will accept applicants who do not meet this criteria.
- Prior clinical experience with children,

adolescents, families, parents and other caregivers.

- Experience or interest in learning about the foster care system.
- Experience conducting psychological assessment (some child assessment experience is preferred).
- Knowledge of Rorschach administration and scoring (preferrably R-PAS) is required by the internship start date.

Writing Skills

- Strong writing skills
- Professional, organized writing

Match With Agency

- Ability to handle a demanding caseload, and to engage with demanding case material.
- Openness to supervision (including the impact of emotional reactions in the work).
- Openness to working in the community (i.e., in homes, schools, and neighborhoods).
- Willingness to embrace the learner role through training and supervision.
- Ability to manage time effectively.
- Desire to work within a practitioner-scholar model and developmental philosophy.
- Has had or currently is in own psychotherapy preferred.

INTERN SELECTION, Continued

Other

- Spanish language fluency a plus.
- Flexibility to work in various environments.
- Ability to collaborate and work with a multidisciplinary team.

Internship Stipend & Benefits

- Annual stipend: \$47,840, including medical benefits
- Time Off: 12 days paid time-off (includes sick & vacation); 4 Self Care Days; 13 WestCoast Holidays; 1 Personal Holiday
- Professional Development Time
- Paid parking at the clinic
- Use of WestCoast issued phone
- Use of WestCoast issued personal device (e.g., chromebook or Macbook)
- Reimbursement of expenses for community-based work

APPLICATION PROCESS

TO APPLY

Applicants must register for the Match using the online registration system on the Match website at www.namatch.com/psychint (No paper applications will be accepted).

For the online application process, please submit:

- A cover letter describing your interest in the position and why you think it is a good match for you
- The APPI
- Your curriculum vitae including your email address (we will communicate with you primarily by email to schedule interviews)
- A redacted psychological assessment report
- Three letters of recommendation

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. Applicants must obtain an Applicant Agreement & register for the Match.

APPIC APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application deadline	November 3, 2024
Interview notification date	December 13, 2024
Virtual Interviews	January 9, 13, or 24, 2025
Match Notification	February 21, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding accreditation, please contact:

Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 2002-4242
Phone: (202) 336-5979
TDD/TYY: (202) 336-6123
Fax: (202) 336-5978

If you have questions about the Doctoral Internship Training Program and/or the contents of this brochure, please contact:

Brooke Guerrero, Psy.D.

WestCoast Children's Clinic
Intern Training Program Director
3301 E. 12th Street, Suite 259,
Oakland, CA 94601
Email: bguerrero@westcoastcc.org



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