

**SUNY New Paltz, Counselor Education Department  
2026-27 Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internship Summary**

Clinical mental health counseling internship placements are for one academic year and correspond with required internship courses that students take in the fall and spring. A site contract will be completed at the beginning of the fall semester that includes fall, winter, and spring. Winter is included because there may be some flexibility for the student to continue at the internship site, under continuous supervision, during the winter break (i.e., between the fall and spring semesters) if that's appropriate for both the student and internship site. All hours accrued during the winter break would be counted towards the spring portion of a student's internship.

**Dates for the Fall 2026 internship placement and corresponding course: 8/24/26 - 12/7/26**

The total number of required hours for the fall 2026 placement is 300, with 120 of those being direct contact hours. Weekly attendance is a requirement for the course and corresponding placement. In consultation with their site supervisor, students arrange and maintain a regular internship schedule that supports timely completion of these required hours. It's helpful to divide the total number of required hours for the semester (above) by the number of weeks in the semester. Then, add some additional weekly hours to ensure there's sufficient time to address any potential schedule changes.

Faculty in the Counselor Education Department acknowledge that the ability to accrue direct hours may be limited during the first weeks of a student's internship, as they build a caseload. Therefore, it's important to provide timely learning opportunities that enable students to accrue these direct contact hours. Students are required to have at least one hour of individual or triadic supervision with their primary site supervisor each week of the semester. Supervisors are required to view sessions live or listen to recordings. At a minimum, this needs to occur before completing the student's midterm and final evaluations.

Students are required to complete all their fall internship hours by 12/7 (i.e., the last day of classes). The final exam period runs from 12/11-12/17. There may be some flexibility for the student to continue at the internship site during this time frame, but not after the semester ends at SUNY New Paltz (i.e., 12/17). As noted above, it may also be possible for a student to continue at the internship site during the winter break between the fall and spring semesters (i.e., 12/23-1/14) under continuous supervision. Those hours would be counted towards the spring portion of their internship. Students need to consult with their internship professor during the fall semester if they have any questions.

**Dates for the spring 2027 internship placement and corresponding course: 1/21/27 – 5/10/27**

The total number of required hours for the spring 2027 placement is 300, with 120 of those being direct contact hours. Weekly attendance is a requirement for the course and corresponding placement. In consultation with their site supervisor, students arrange and maintain a regular internship schedule that supports timely completion of these required hours. It's helpful to divide the total number of required hours for the semester (above) by the number of weeks in the semester. Then, add some additional weekly hours to ensure there's sufficient time to address any potential schedule changes.

Students are required to have at least one hour of individual or triadic supervision with their primary site supervisor each week of the semester. Supervisors are required to view sessions live or listen to recordings. At a minimum, this needs to occur before completing the student's midterm and final evaluations.

Students are required to complete all their spring internship hours by 5/10 (i.e., the last day of classes). The final exam period runs from 5/14-5/20. There may be some flexibility to continue at the internship site during the final

exam period, but not beyond the end of the semester (i.e., 5/20). Students need to consult with their internship professor during the spring semester if they have any questions.

**Completing site-specific onboarding tasks**

Students are asked to consult with their site supervisor about any onboarding tasks that need to be completed prior to starting their internship. Taking care of all site-specific onboarding tasks early will enable students to begin their internship during the first week of the semester and to stay on track in meeting course requirements. In some cases, site supervisors may need to refer students to other personnel at the host agency who are involved with onboarding (e.g., administrators, Human Resources professionals). Until the semester begins, students are not permitted to work with clients at the site.

**More information will be shared closer to the start of this internship**

At the start of the student's internship, more information will be shared with supervisors and students such as instructions for completing a practicum site agreement, recording and verifying hours, and completing evaluations at the midterm and final points of the semester.