

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS - ATASCADERO

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July 16, 2025

Dear Internship Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Psychology Internship Program at the Department of State Hospitals – Atascadero, a forensic state hospital. The Psychology Internship Program has been accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1970. All information necessary to apply to the Psychology Internship Program can be obtained in the program brochure, which is available on the [DSH-Atascadero Psychology Internship's website](#).

Internships are offered for fourth and fifth year students enrolled in accredited doctoral programs in clinical or counseling psychology who have completed course work and doctoral level clinical practica in intervention and assessment. Historically, the program has required that applicants have received a minimum of 500 direct contact intervention hours and 150 direct contact assessment hours at the time of application. In the context of COVID-19-related disruptions to practica experience, the selection committee will adopt a more flexible approach to reviewing applications this year. Applicants who anticipate meeting the minimum requirements of 150 assessment hours and 500 intervention hours by the beginning of internship (August 3, 2026) are encouraged to apply. Please provide an explanation for how you anticipate accruing these hours in that timeframe.

Intern applicants are required to have their qualifying examinations complete and dissertation proposals approved prior to application. Preference is given for candidates who will have their dissertations completed prior to the start of internship. Enrollment in an APA accredited program is strongly preferred. The internship is designed for the student seeking forensic training within a program that provides a broad-based clinical training experience. Some practicum experience in forensic psychology is necessary.

Applications must include:

- 1) The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) Application for Psychology Internships. To access the application, please visit [the APPIC website](#).
- 2) Three letters of recommendation.
- 3) A sample psychological evaluation report that includes psychological testing and interpretation. Do not use a neuropsychological evaluation.
- 4) Per rules set by the California State Personnel Board, all applicants must submit a standard State of California application, named [STD 678](#). This state application should be completed online and sent to Phylissa.Kwartner@dsh.ca.gov by the

November 1st deadline. The STD 678 is not to be uploaded with the APPIC application. APPIC has approved the use of the STD 678 as an additional document for California Department of State Hospital internships. Apple computer users should note that you may need to complete, print, and then scan the form to submit. Some Apple users have found that even though the form appears complete on their computer, when e-mailed the completed form is sent blank. Don't forget to sign the document before sending it.

- 5) Applicants from doctoral programs in Counseling psychology must also submit a letter from the Director of Clinical Training delineating how the coursework is equivalent to that of a Clinical psychology graduate program. This letter should be emailed to Phylissa.Kwartner@dsh.ca.gov by the November 1st deadline.

The application and all needed supporting documents must be received by November 1, 2025. DSH-Atascadero is retaining a virtual interview process. The most competitive candidates will be invited to participate in a video-conference interview conducted via WebEx throughout January. Applicants will be emailed a link prior to their interview date to allow them to log in to the interview. Please expect to complete a brief writing sample. Plan to have your photograph taken during the interview as we utilize candidate photos as a memory aid. Two virtual open houses will be offered in which the internship director will provide an overview of the training program, and applicants will have an opportunity to meet several supervisors as well as the current interns. A virtual tour of DSH-Atascadero is also available on the [DSH-Atascadero Psychology Internship's website](#).

Department of State Hospitals – Atascadero is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers and adheres to APPIC guidelines regarding intern selection. Additional information regarding the Match Program can be obtained at the [National Match Website](#).

DSH – Atascadero's APPIC Internship Program code number is 1113.

Sincerely,



Phylissa Kwartner, Ph.D.
Psychology Internship Director
Phylissa.Kwartner@dsh.ca.gov