



RUSH NEUROBEHAVIORAL CENTER

900 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 270, Northbrook, IL 60062

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RNBC PRACTICUM DESCRIPTION

RNBC Mission: Rush NeuroBehavioral Center (RNBC) empowers children, teens, and adults with social, emotional, and learning challenges to build on their strengths and thrive in life and relationships. We live our mission through exceptional service, clinical and educational innovation, and ground-breaking research.

Clinical Services Offered at RNBC:

RNBC has developed an international reputation of providing excellent and comprehensive assessment and treatment services to children, adolescents, and families. Furthermore, we have developed a strong program focused on neuropsychological assessment that integrates research and clinical practices to enhance the assessment and treatment of social-emotional learning difficulties.

Assessment Services:

We specialize in the clinical assessment and diagnosis of a variety of mental health, neurological, and developmental disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), ADHD, individuals with concussions, seizure disorders, hydrocephalus, chromosomal abnormalities, learning disabilities, behavioral and emotional disorders, and speech and language disorders. Our battery is flexible depending on the child's needs and concerns. The assessment battery is individualized to each child to explore the child's strengths and weaknesses. The evaluation battery typically includes assessment related to intellectual functioning, academic achievement, various aspects of attention, memory, executive functioning, receptive and expressive language, and emotional and behavioral functioning.

Treatment Services:

In addition to the assessment services, RNBC offers Speech/Language assessment and individual speech therapy. Students will have the opportunity to observe and work occasionally with our speech and language pathologist and her students when speech/language testing is performed as part of a case they have been assigned.

Research Opportunities:

The research team at the Rush NeuroBehavioral Center has several projects currently underway in which we are: (a) developing novel methods of assessing social-emotional skills, (b) clarifying the nature of social-emotional learning processes in typically developing and clinic-referred children, and (c) mapping neurophysiological responses to social and emotional stimuli. We have accrued a very large data archive and have many concurrent ongoing projects, providing ample opportunities for interested practicum students to undertake an independent study project, co-author a paper, or in other ways to collaborate with the research team.

Neuropsychological Assessment Practicum Commitment & Schedule

The practicum student is expected to be at RNBC two and a half days per week for approximately 18-20 hours per week. Fridays are not an assessment day, but didactics and group supervision take place on Friday mornings from 9-11 am and are a mandatory portion of the practicum. The practicum training year is expected to last approximately 12 months. The practicum training year typically begins early to mid-July and includes three weeks of training and typically ends the beginning of July of the following year. If the student is interested in taking part in research opportunities, an additional day on site would be required.

As we are a neuropsychological assessment training site based through a research-based medical hospital center, we do not follow ACEPT timelines. Thus, we will not be following the official Chicago-area “Match Day” policies. For those schools not participating in the Chicago Ph.D. Consortium, *we will begin accepting applications for our training year beginning **Early December** and make offers to candidates on a rolling basis until our spots are filled.* Our interview includes a 30-minute individual meeting with several of our clinicians as well as a 30-minute writing exercise interpreting data that the candidate will be given at the time of the interview.

Applicants who accept any externship should understand that prior to commencing training at RNBC, they will be required to successfully pass a required medical examination which includes TB testing and a drug test. Failure to pass these screenings will render you ineligible to train at RUSH. Proof of flu vaccination is also required and will be submitted to employee health at the time of enrollment in volunteer services. Further, you will be expected to complete required on-line training per RUSH regulations (e.g., HIPAA, Compliance Training, etc.), which will be sent to you during your on-boarding process. You will also be expected to provide your supervisor with a copy of your school’s malpractice insurance coverage for its students. If you have supplemental individual malpractice insurance, this documentation is needed as well.

Supervision Philosophy:

RNBC believes the primary value of supervision comes from having a safe and supportive environment in which the supervisee can build on their own skills and insights as a practitioner, and in which the supervisee can reflect on any aspect of their profession and their client interactions. The ultimate aim of supervision is to enable supervisees to enhance the service they offer to clients, and to safeguard and enhance their own well-being while doing it. In terms of subject matter, the primary focus of the supervision process is the strong development of case conceptualization skills from a holistic perspective, integration of current evidence-based research in understanding differential and comorbid diagnosis presentations, and ability to convey results to parents, children, and school personnel in a supportive and effective manner.

Ideal Assessment Applicant:

The ideal applicant for this site would be a student with a strong background and interest in neuropsychological assessment and be prepared to learn a large variety of assessment measures. The student should have strong skills in writing and willingness and ability to grow from constrictive comments and supports. A desire to independently learn about psychological and neurological disorders as they apply to the various assessment cases will be expected and necessary to further the student’s broader understanding of current research and treatments in those areas. A confident and articulate candidate is highly sought after as they will be participating in intake interviews and feedback sessions with parents. Individuals with good organization and time management skills are of high priority.

Assessment Practicum Student Duties & Responsibilities:

The practicum student will be expected to be a part of many clinical activities throughout the year. In addition to the defined duties, the practicum student is expected to engage in appropriate professional conduct, be on time, be actively involved in meetings, and prepare for case assignments. Responsibilities and duties may change throughout the year based on supervisor recommendations and the interests of the practicum student. Practicum student duties may include the following:

- Interview parents with supervisors as part of the intake process
- Learn and be able to administer a wide variety of neuropsychological tests to children, adolescents, and adults based on standardized administration
- Score tests and interpret results
- Write 20-25 integrated neuropsychological assessment reports with the opportunity for additional assessments depending on the student’s desire and ability
- Attend parent and child feedback meetings

- Participate in school IEP and 504 plan meetings as schedules allow
- Attend weekly meetings focused on group supervision, clinic rounds, group facilitator training, and didactics related to neuropsychology
- Present at didactics on the topic of your choice
- Receive weekly individual supervision with your primary supervisor

For Diagnostic Assessment and Advanced Neuropsychological Assessment applicants, please e-mail information directly to:

ashley_lambert@rush.edu

Dr. Ashley Lambert, Psy.D.

Clinical Neuropsychologist

Associate Professor, Rush University Medical Center

Training Director and Clinic Director

Rush Neurobehavioral Center

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For general questions and inquiries about the program, please contact:

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Dr. Nicole Summers, Psy.D.

Clinical Neuropsychologist

Associate Professor, Rush University Medical Center

Information to Include for Application

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Most current transcript
- 3 letters of recommendation