To: Potential Practicum Site

Thank you for considering a Pacifica Graduate Institute student for a practicum experience at your site. The student who has approached you is enrolled in the Master’s Degree Program in Counseling Psychology. Pacifica is accredited through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and meets the curriculum requirements leading to licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the state of California.

Pacifica requires students to engage in a supervised practicum experience in their home communities for six-sequential quarters. The supervised practicum is intended to complement the student’s graduate coursework and to provide the student an opportunity to learn “hands-on” clinical skills, including: assessment, diagnosis, knowledge of legal and ethical issues, referrals and adjunctive services, treatment of mental disorders, therapeutic interventions, case management, prognosis, and termination.

This is the first clinical experience for most students. While engaged in their supervised practicum, students are concurrently enrolled in a Clinical Practice course. These six-sequential quarter courses teach skills in assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, oral and written case presentations, maintenance of progress notes, legal and ethical considerations, as well as effective case management. Students complete 36.25 quarter units in course work by the time they begin their supervised practicum. Some of these courses include: Counseling and Psychotherapeutic Theories and Techniques, Human Growth and Development, Professional Orientation: Ethics and the Law, Geropsychology and Long Term Care, Family Systems and Domestic Violence, Ethics and the Law: Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment, Multicultural Counseling Theories and Techniques, Psychopathology and Group Counseling Theories and Techniques.

The supervised practicum is an exciting and challenging experience for our students and has the potential to provide valuable feedback as well as a rich introduction to the practice of psychotherapy and clinical counseling. It is the intent of Pacifica to establish cooperative and collaborative relationships with the practicum sites so that our students may become sensitive, compassionate, and skilled clinicians.

If you would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact me or to preview Pacifica’s website at www.pacifica.edu and the practicum website at www.pacifica.edu/practicum_resources.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Wallner, M.A., L.M.F.T.
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Pacifica Graduate Institute Supervised Practicum Requirements

Student’s supervised practicum requirements:

- A minimum of 280 direct service hours are required. This includes telemedicine counseling and face-to-face counseling with individuals, couples, families or groups.
- Student must complete a minimum of 50 hours of direct service each quarter, except summer which requires 30 hours.
- Student must also provide counseling to at least six (6) individual clients for a minimum of six (6) sessions each over the entire supervised practicum experience.
- Submission of a Quarterly Practicum Log, signed by the clinical supervisor, documenting the hours spent at the practicum site.
- All students are required to procure their own professional liability insurance even if the practicum site has insurance which covers the student.

In order to meet Pacifica’s educational requirements, the practicum site is asked to provide the following:

- Clinical supervision with a licensed mental health clinician practicing as a Marriage and Family Therapist, Clinical Social Worker, Psychologist, Board-certified Psychiatrist, Licensed Professional Counselor and/or a Licensed Mental Health Counselor is acceptable.
- The Clinical Supervisor must have been licensed for at least two years and must be licensed in the state where the supervision is occurring as well as meeting state supervisor requirements.
- Clinical supervision must include at least one hour of individual supervision or two hours of group supervision per calendar week (with no more than 8 group members).
- The Clinical Supervisor must agree to evaluate the student’s clinical skills on a quarterly basis on a Quarterly Clinical Supervisor’s Evaluation provided by Pacifica.
- The Clinical Supervisor must agree to ensure that all state laws, regulations, and professional ethics are followed. Please be aware that since students practice away from the Pacifica campus the clinical responsibilities between the trainee and the client rest exclusively with the practicum site.

Prior to a student beginning a practicum, the site must be approved by Pacifica Graduate Institute. California law requires that an affiliation agreement outlining the responsibilities of each party be signed between the agency, the student, and the graduate school. The student can provide you with a copy of this agreement.