

Internship and Postdoctoral Consortia: Requirement, Challenges, and Rewards

Panelists:

Joyce Illfelder-Kaye, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University

Linda K. Knauss, Ph.D., ABPP
Widener University

Paul Margolies, Ph.D.
New York State Office of Mental Health

Introduction (see PowerPoints):

- Definition of consortia
- Requirements of consortia
- Common pitfalls in a consortium

Overview of programs at New York State Office of Mental Health and Widener University (see PowerPoints)

Questions:

Question for Linda Knauss:

If a site dismisses an intern, how does that affect their standing in the doctoral program?

Answer:

Most likely, a remediation plan will be put into effect. But if a student is to be dismissed, the program director will make that decision along with graduate faculty.

Question for Linda Knauss:

How do you have a shared philosophy/model/rationale for 40 training sites that are very different?

Answer:

Part of it relates to the training model, which is generalist in nature – so all rotations can feed into this. The philosophy of the rotations is that they will all train generalists.

Question for Paul Margolies:

When do you ask graduates of your program how they're doing/ how your training program helped them?

Answer:

Every two years.

Question for Linda Knauss:

How do you distinguish between practicum and internship?

Answer:

Interns are paid, which makes a distinction. Also, practicum students are students, interns are junior colleagues. Practicum students are much more closely supervised, while interns are expected to have a certain level of independence.

Question for Linda Knauss:

With different rotations, and the two year internship, how do you monitor graded complexity?

Answer:

Some rotations are only 5th year, some only 4th year – all sites are educated on the need for growing complexity.

Question for the panel:

How can students generate revenue and how do they get paid?

Paul Margolies response: When interns are state employees, generation of revenue is not an issue.

Linda Knauss: Students are paid employees of Widener University

Panelist caution: Be careful not to emphasize intern generation of revenue – training must take precedence.

Concern raised:

Cost of interns is 40% beyond what stipend is – deciding who, in a consortia, is going to absorb that cost is a concern.

Concern:

APPIC guideline that training director has to be on site for 20 hours.

Linda Knauss response: Widener is not a member of APPIC so this requirement does not apply.

Audience response: One of the training directors of a center should be the training director of the consortia to fulfil this APPIC requirement.