

Richmond Virginia McGuire Veterans
Medical Center
Recreation Therapy
Internship Requirements

Student Coordinator: Curtis A. Robb, CTRS

RT Staff:

RT Supervisor: Shari Hicks, CTRS

Poly-Trauma Unit: Paulette Beasley, CTRS

Mental Health Unit: Kathleen Klebert, CTRS

Community Living
Center: April Yount, CTRS
Kim Jones, RT Assistant
Nicole Shuman, CTRS

Spinal Cord Unit: Irene Gilbert, CTRS
Jennifer Vass, CTRS

Poly-Trauma
Network Service: Barbara Minnicks, CTRS

Poly-Trauma
Transitional Unit: Felix Cruz Sr., BA, Creative Arts Specialist
Curtis A. Robb, CTRS

Introduction

The internship experience offered by McGuire Veteran Medical Center's Recreation Therapy program is for students affiliated with a college or university who offers a degree in Therapeutic Recreation. This experience will provide 640 contact hours under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. This internship program does comply with the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification guidelines.

The purpose of this internship manual is to provide those involved with specific guidelines for students and staff (both agencies) to comply. It provides the student with the opportunity to grow academically, personally and professionally.

McGuire Veteran Medical Center

The Recreation Therapy Department will help individuals to return to a functional leisure lifestyle either independently or with least amount of assistance. Through various leisure tasks, education and community interventions, these persons will habilitate and increase motor function, cognition,

and emotional well being to accomplish their personal goals.

Mission

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan”, said Abraham Lincoln during his second Inaugural Address.

Population Served

The Recreation Therapy Department serves service personnel who are active duty and veteran in status. The ages range from 18 – 96 years of age. These persons are seen on the following units: Mental Health (out-patient), Mental Health (day treatment), Mental Health (in patient), Mental Health (after care), Community Living Center (in patient and Animal Assisted Therapy), Poly-Trauma Rehab Services (in-patient), Poly-Trauma Neuro Services (out- patient), Poly-Trauma Transitional Rehab Program (in patient-residential), Spinal Cord Unit (in patient), and Spinal Cord Unit (out-patient). The Recreation Therapy Department offers its services to all service personnel who are referred to our Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 6.

Internship Program Objectives

1. To provide the student with the opportunity to grow as a person and professional.
2. To have a practical learning experience in an agency that provides recreation services under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.
3. To provide a multifaceted therapy environment that will grow a well rounded student.
4. To increase the flexibility / coping skills of the student via the current therapy structure.
5. To teach the necessary documentation skills for various treatment facets.
6. To provide the student the opportunity to comprehend the whole delivery system via Recreation Therapy.

Requirements of Interns for Participation in McGuire Veterans Medical Center Recreation Therapy Internship Program

1. The student's school must have an established contract prior to the start of the affiliation.
2. The student(s) must have a cumulative 2.5 grade point average within their TR / RT classes to be eligible for this internship experience.

3. The student(s) must have a face-to-face interview with the RT staff **(x1 exception: if the student lives too far away and finances don't allow the student to travel to VAMC site.)**
4. The student(s) are required to perform a 16 week affiliation.
5. The student(s) will be required to complete all assigned tasks by the College or University and the VAMC agency.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If a student has behavioral, academic, or other problems that are impeding the student's ability to perform the duties mandated by the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Medical Center and their Academic Institution, then the following will take place:

1. A behavioral contract will be developed by the academic and VA parties to address the identified issues.
2. The student and designated supervisors will sign the behavioral contract.
3. A timeline will be instituted and the student will be given time to correct the areas of concern.
4. If the identified areas of concern haven't been corrected by the stated dates then the student's internship will be discontinued.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. The student will perform a special event or develop a program that all patients can attend or benefit from post the intern's affiliation.
2. The student will present one inservice to RT staff.
3. The student will perform unit specific assignments.
4. The student will complete all assigned class work given by college or university.

McGuire VAMC
Recreation Therapy
Internship Program

Senior Affiliation:

A. First Week:

- 1) Intern will complete hospital orientation with Clinical Instructor(CI) such as:
 - a. Meet RT staff,
 - b. Computer training,
 - c. Orientation to other disciplines,
 - d. Transfer training,
 - e. Orientation to vehicle(s), and
 - f. Documentation,
 - g. Receive unit orientation packet (includes specific information for each unit to help transition)

B. Weeks 2-5

- 1) Intern will be oriented to unit, diagnoses, general procedures, and project.
- 2) Intern will be taught general and specific deficits for each diagnosis.
- 3) Intern will be taught cognitive facets and how to develop and apply them to treatments.
- 4) Intern will be taught community skills.
- 5) Intern will have reported in team meeting.
- 6) Intern will have been assigned a patient(s) (pending treatment area).
- 7) Intern will have attended community outing (pending treatment area).

B. Weeks 6-7

- 1) Intern will be taught the emotional components related to each specific diagnosis.
- 2) Intern will be encouraged to anticipate specific behaviors and deficits as related to diagnosis / personality.
- 3) Intern will be able to document specific behaviors and deficits with cues / feedback.
- 4) Intern will have identified program project / inservice and established dates.
- 5) Intern will be able to direct individual / group treatments and set up community outings with supervision occasional cues.

C. Weeks 8-10

- 1) Intern will show knowledge of various diagnoses.
- 2) Intern will exhibit increased self confidence and adequate leadership skills.
- 3) Intern will be able to plan /implement individual, group and community activities / events with distant supervision.

- 4) Intern will display adequate documentation skills (all general information is in the note and additional insight towards the underlying etiology).
- 5) Intern will be able to report in treatment team meetings independently and with moderate self confidence at least.
- 6) Intern should surpass general professional requirements and behaviors for general employment (timeliness, interactions with team, organization, etc.).

D. Weeks 11-15

- 1) Intern will continue to expand knowledge of diagnoses.
- 2) Intern will exhibit increased initiative and self confidence.
- 3) Intern will display appropriate flexibility and coping skills.
- 4) Intern will have no difficulty planning needed treatment (on campus or via the community).
- 5) Intern will be able to manage any case load on any given unit at modified independent level.

E. Week 16

- 1) Intern will be independent with all skills from each unit and documentation.
- 2) Intern will exhibit a confidence that will exemplify independence.
- 3) Intern will have completed project(s) and inservice.
- 4) Intern can choose any unit to fulfill last week of affiliation.

UNIT ROTATIONS

16 WEEK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- Spinal Cord Injury Unit (SCI)
- Mental Health (MH) In patient / Out Patient / Day Treatment / Substance Abuse
- Community Living Center / Hospice Care Unit (NH)
- Poly Trauma Rehab Center (PRC) - In patient (PRC)
- Poly Trauma Network Site (PNS) - Out patient
- Poly Trauma Transitional Rehab Program (PTRP) - In patient-residential (Mental Health and PTRP act as one rotation).

***Each student will be asked to choose two areas of preference to assist with rotation scheduling.**

***Each student will be exposed to at least two areas during an affiliation.
(One unit specialization can be done)**

***Each student is given a packet which has orientation information from each unit to assist with transition phases. (The student is responsible for preparing self prior to transferring to the next unit)**

***The rotation schedule will be e-mailed to the student prior to the start date.**