
Internship FAQs (Revised 08/11/2010)

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Why do the direct service internships start at a minimum commitment of 300 hours over a minimum 4 months?

Family Shelter makes a considerable upfront investment in the training & orientation of new interns who will be providing direct client service. The training we provide includes the 48 Hr DV Training & our thorough Orientation Program (about 20-30 hours). Therefore, for those wishing to complete internships that include direct client contact we require a minimum commitment of 300 hours over a minimum 4 months for some of the positions. Some of the positions require even more due to amount of time it takes to crest the learning curve of those activities.

Can I make a commitment to do more hours than my school requires?

Yes. For example, let's say that your school only requires 200 hours and you want to apply for an internship that includes providing services directly to clients, which asks for a 300 hour minimum requirement. If you specify on your internship application that you want to make a commitment of 300 hours or more, then you can still be considered for a direct service internship.

Does the 48-Hr DV Training Count in my Internship Hours

For internship commitments of less than 350 hours, the 48-Hr DV Training does NOT count in the internship hours.

For internship commitments of 350 hours or more, the 48-Hr DV Training DOES count in the internship hours, provided that your school agrees.

If I do not pursue an Internship, can I still attend the 48 Hour Domestic Violence Training?

Yes. The 48 Hour Domestic Violence Training is open to everyone in the community. Even though you did not pursue an Internship, you are still welcome to register & attend (provided there are seats available).

Can I take the 48 Hour DV Training before being offered an Internship?

It's up to you whether or not you want to take the training before being offered an Internship position.

How many Interns does FSS have?

We usually have 6-14 interns, depending on the time of year.

How many Counseling/Social Work Supervisors do you have?

We have 4 supervisors that have either an IL LCPC or LCSW license. We have 1 additional supervisor that has an MSW with field experience since graduation in 2002.

What is the difference between volunteering vs. Internship?

Internships are different from volunteering. Your school usually has certain expectations for you, for the type of experience you need to obtain, & of us to provide you with everything you need to get that expected experience. Volunteering is simply you give time as you can, doing an activity of your choice where we have an opening.

What if there is not a school requirement to complete an Internship, but I want to do one?

If you are not currently a student or your school doesn't require an internship of you, you may still apply for an Internship with FSS.

The choice on whether to come on as an intern or as a volunteer is really up to you (and you may want your advisor's advice if you are in school).

As an intern, you would be required to fulfill a minimum number of hours. You would receive supervision / feedback / evaluations & that's what you could then include on your resume.

As a volunteer, there is less structure. So you would not have an hour requirement, though we would still be asking for some commitment. You would get some guidance from our staff, but no commitment of face-to-face regular supervision appointment. Also it's unlikely there would be a formal evaluation. For information on volunteer opportunities, contact Kathy Vorel at kvorel@familyshelterservice.net or (630) 221.8293 x7115.

If I do an Internship as a Bachelors-level student, can I apply again as a Masters-level student?

Yes. Doing additional internships would provide a well-rounded & in-depth experience in a non-profit social service agency.

Do you have Internships for PsyD students?

We don't have a PsyD on staff to provide the Clinical Supervision to a PsyD student. If off-site supervision could be arranged, then an opportunity could be discussed with the Internship Program Coordinator.

I am a COD Human Service student – what core classes do I need to have completed?

- Domestic Violence course (at COD or elsewhere)
- Crisis Intervention and/or Advocacy in Human Services
- Group Dynamics I

If you are a COD student, but not in Human Services, we can waive one or all of the required core classes if you have completed similar courses within another degree discipline.

NOTE: If you took COD's Adult Fast-Track version of the 40-Hour Domestic Violence Training, you would not have received a Certificate, because it does NOT meet the IL standard requirement (because the requirement is 40 hours face-to-face & your class time didn't total 40 hrs). At this point there isn't a way to "make up the difference." Other students have just re-taken the entire 40 Hr DV Training here at FSS or elsewhere.

What if I completed a 40 Hour DV Training somewhere other than FSS or COD?

You can begin direct client hours as soon as your school allows, but not a Hotline shift until you have attending the Hotline Training session (Class #8 of the 48 Hr DV Training).

If someone applying for an Internship requiring more than 300 hours has taken the IL 40 Hour DV Training at an approved site (other than FSS or COD), they must attend the following sessions at FSS within their first year:

- Empowerment, Safety Plans, & Advocacy
- Assessment & Intervention
- IDVA & Orders of Protection
- Introduction to Hotline Training (both am & pm sessions)
- (and others as assessed by Intern Program Coordinator or Supervisor)

If someone has taken a 40 Hour DV Training in another state, then they will need to take our 48 Hour DV Training (in its entirety) within their first year.

What is the difference between the IL Standard required 40 Hr DV Training & FSS' 48 Hr DV Training?

The IL standard 40 Hr DV Training is 7 class days. Each class day is made up of two 3-Hr sessions each. All 7 must be completed before any client contact can occur.

FSS offers an additional 8th class day, which is the Hotline Training. This Hotline training is required for most internship positions, but isn't required to begin client contact.

What if I know I will need to miss a session of the 48 Hr DV Training?

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act requires by law that advocates who provide direct services to victims of domestic violence must have 40 hours of classroom instruction prior to working with victims.

Therefore, when you register for the training, it is expected that you attend all classes. Two classes are presented on each day of the training, with a total of fourteen classes. We realize this represents a significant commitment on your part, so if it is absolutely necessary that you miss one to four classes, you will be allowed to make up those classes at the next training offering. **However, you will not be able to work directly with clients until you have made up all missed classes. If you miss more than four classes, you must repeat the entire training at another time before you may work directly with clients.**

Day 1 of the training is the foundation of the entire training & can't be "made-up" at the next training offering. Therefore, we insist attendance on Day 1.