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YMCA TIDES PRACTICUM SITE

This is a 20 to 25 hour per week placement requiring a 12-month contract. The clinical experience is working in the TIDES (Therapeutic Interventions Designed to Empower Students) program providing counseling to elementary, middle or high school students at their school sites. TIDES is a MediCal funded program using the County's Anasazi computer program. Therefore, there is documentation and billing for every client contact and consultation. There is considerable training provided to assist trainees in the steep learning curve for this administrative part of their experience.

Students find that counseling with the children is rewarding. Although referrals usually come from the school, the intention is also to involve the parents. Any parents are monolingual Spanish and therapists use professional interpreters when meeting with non-English speaking caregivers.

Another aspect of the TIDES program is the connection with the school personnel. The therapists have regular meetings with school staff, hold collaborative conversations with client's teachers and counselors to obtain feedback on the child's progress in the classroom.

The hours are somewhat flexible, however the school counseling is daytime during school hours, Monday through Friday. Occasionally parents are seen at the agency so therapist availability in the evening is sometimes necessary. Individual and group supervision are provided weekly. In addition, there is weekly a 1 hour administrative staff meeting.

In summary this practicum offers extensive training and prepares students to be professionals with high legal and ethical standards.