Placements for Clinical Internship Experience

 The programs that are selected for practicum and internship placements include those which serve adults, adolescence, and children. These sites might be a part of large behavior health systems or private sites. These sites will provide a comprehensive array of services to persons with mental illness and/or addictions or sites with a limited treatment focus and target population.

 Agencies that host Florida Gulf Coast University students include both not for profit and for profit agencies. Most of the organizations are licensed or may be funded or certified by a government oversight organization. Settings might employ mental health counselors, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, or other allied behavioral health practitioners. Each organization receives communication from Florida Gulf Coast University and the clinical coordinators office at least twice a year to assess and maintain suitability of services for students. In addition, the clinical coordinator is the designated faculty for all communication, questions, clarifications, and resolution for issues of concern that may evolve throughout the academic year.

 The clinical coordinator of the graduate counseling program has been designated to serve in the role of coordinating practicum and internship placements. In this role the faculty person will establish a formal agreement with the agency. A key responsibility of the coordinator of the internship placements is to ensure that the agency is able to assign site supervisors who meet education and experience requirements that are consistent with the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

 The clinical coordinator is responsible for the application process which takes place on March 15 and October 15 of each academic year. Students are directed to complete an application designating their choices of internship sites. Students are expected to reflect a wide continuum of site preferences that will allow them a wide breathe of experience during the graduate program. The clinical coordinator is responsible for generating placement opportunities for students as well as assessing placement options for each student. Students are permitted to state a particular preference for placement in an organization. This choice will be considered in the student’s placement decision. In addition, if a student has knowledge of another organization they are encouraged to provide the information to the clinical coordinator so it can be explored for suitability. The clinical coordinator will attempt to ensure that students have an opportunity to interview at a setting of preference. If a student refuses settings offered their options may be limited. Additionally, a student may only interview at one placement at a time until a decision about placement is reached.

 This process applies only to students who have met both the academic prerequisites for internship and have consistently demonstrated the personal qualities and characteristics that are accepted in the profession as the foundation for effective counseling.