

INTERNSHIP CLEARINGHOUSE

Proactive Preparation

1. If you did not match this year, ask the sites that did (or even did not) interview you for feedback on your application, qualifications, and interview. Some Training Directors will be happy to provide an applicant with specific feedback.
2. It would be advantageous to contact sites that you are interested in applying to for next year to inquire about what they look for in their candidates. You can then spend the next year constructively improving your qualifications, working on your CRP, and possibly increasing your direct client service hours.
3. Students that did not match should spend a good amount of time improving and strengthening their essays. It is extremely important to have others including your Training Department point person, peers, supervisors and/or faculty review your essays. This will help to ensure that you are coming across as desired.
4. Be selective about where you apply. When Training Directors review applications, they are looking for student whose interests, needs, and goals match well with their site. It is evident in students' applications if they are only slightly interested in the site and are more interested in simply obtaining an internship.

Advice and Guidance from a Student who did not Match

I just wanted to offer some advice to those students who did not match this year. I applied for internship last year and did not match. I felt hurt, frustrated, disappointed and angry. I even considered leaving the program and pursuing another career (despite the fact that, at that time, I had been in my graduate program for 8 years!!). Although I had gotten in touch with some training directors to get a sense of why I wasn't ranked high, I felt that for the most part their advice was very generic and not all that helpful. I made the difficult decision to reapply this year and tried to improve my application in ways that I "thought" would help even though I wasn't entirely certain what I would be doing would actually help. I felt as though I was taking a test and had no idea what to study for or how best to prepare!

In any case, I got some additional clinical experience in an area I didn't have much experience in, I submitted two journal articles and some conference presentations. I also finished up my dissertation and I feel as though this helped a lot. When I went on my interviews this time around most if not all training directors were impressed that I was going to have that done by the time I started internship. Plus, talking with current interns, I got the impression that it is very difficult to work on your dissertation while on internship, so they echoed the responses of training directors in response to finishing up the dissertation before internship. I applied to 20 different sites (more than what is recommended, but I didn't want to take any chances!) For each site, I painstakingly scrutinized each brochure and made sure that my essays and cover letters coincided with the internship's stated goals and experiences provided. I also made sure that each site that I applied to was a good to perfect fit. I also broadened my interests from the previous year. I think that this all paid off because I received 12 interviews (compared to three from last year). And I matched. Now, I don't know if there is some magical formula for ensuring a match, in fact I think that overall this process is very esoteric and that some of it is just pure luck, but I definitely feel that the more effort put in the more likely things will work out.

My heart goes out to all students who didn't match! I know how you feel! Give yourself time to grieve, and treat yourself to whatever makes you feel good-because even though you didn't match, you still worked hard and you should acknowledge that. During this past year my motto was simply "Keep moving forward!!" And although internship didn't pan out for me last year, I still needed to work on my dissertation and in the grand scheme of things it worked out better the second time around because now I can truly enjoy my internship experience without having to worry about my dissertation!

Non-APPIC sites from the Clearinghouse listserv

Argosy University, Chicago policies related to acceptance of a non-APPIC internship:

If you are offered a position by a non-APPIC site that posted the position on the Clearinghouse listserv, you must consult with your Training Department point person prior to accepting the offer. After accepting the offer, you will need to provide documentation that the site meets all the requirements for a student initiated internship site. (Guidelines are on the Training Department website).

Student Initiated Internship Sites:

Students occasionally desire to initiate development of a new internship site. Please refer to 6.2b in the Training Manual in regards to student initiated internship sites.

If you have additional questions about this process, please consult with your Training Department point person.