

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLIED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITE
FOR THE SJSU MS CLINICAL PROGRAM**

What type of experience counts as the prerequisite clinical experience for applying to the MS Clinical Program?

Your volunteer or paid clinical experience must be with clinical populations in a mental health setting. This does not mean you are providing psychotherapy; it does mean that you are working around populations with psychological distress or psychopathology. Examples of these types of positions include working for a crisis call center, a domestic violence shelter, a rape crisis center, working with disturbed children or adolescents, and so on. You must be doing this work after having been trained AND WHILE a mental health professional supervises you. Note that we require at least one letter of recommendation from a clinical supervisor.

What kind of clinical experience doesn't count for this prerequisite?

Teaching and mentoring does not count for this prerequisite one year of experience, though we all agree this is a good thing to do and will provide you with valuable experience. The experience must be delivering some type of mental health service that you have been trained to do and supervised while doing.

How much clinical experience do I need?

You need at least *100 hours* of clinical experience for *at least one year*. This means you have volunteered for or have been paid for at least 2 hours of service each week for a year. Your experience must be with one agency for one year. Summer internships that only last for 3 months do not fulfill our prerequisite requirement.

Can I apply before this prerequisite has been completed?

You *MUST* have at least 100 hours of applied clinical experience before you apply to the program. This will allow your supervisor to write a letter evaluating your skills. You may apply to the program before you have completed the whole year. However, if you have not completed the full year when you apply, you must show how that one year of experience can be completed by the time the Fall semester begins.

Where do I get this applied clinical experience or find out how to get it?

One way is to ask others where they are gaining their experience and whether they liked it. You may also ask a professor in a course you are taking or that you already know. Word of mouth is probably your best starting place. Another thing to try is look in the phone book under the heading you might be interested in, like "Domestic Violence Shelters." Still another is to search on the web; in the Bay Area, try this site: <http://www.volunteerinfo.org/>. (Note that not all of the agencies concern mental health service provision.)