



YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Psychiatry / Psychology Section

## Doctoral Internship Policy & Procedures Psychological Assessment Policy

Revised 06-15-18

1. **Definition:** In this internship, psychological assessment refers to the evaluation of individuals, families, organizations, and systems. This definition is intended to ensure that assessments can be fully integrated into the training in each fellow's placement site. Assessment can include: clinical interviews, semi-structured interviews, observation, behavioral assessment, screening, intellectual assessment, educational assessment, cognitive assessment, neuropsychological assessment, personality assessment, symptom assessment, risk assessment, forensic assessment, organizational assessment, and systems assessment.
2. **Purpose:** Psychological assessment serves a number of functions including: informing case conceptualization, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical decision-making; monitoring behavioral health conditions and treatment progress; identifying organizational and systems processes and structures for use in planning, evaluation, and intervention.
3. **An Essential Competency:** Psychological assessment is one of the core competencies of the internship program and it is a required competency under the internship accreditation standards of the American Psychological Association. Given the importance of this professional practice, it is essential that fellows receive training in psychological assessment and their skills are evaluated.
4. **Didactic Instruction:** Psychological assessment is a substantive topic in sessions within the internship's Core Seminar. All Placement-Based Seminars also include sessions relevant to the assessment of the populations served within that placement.
5. **Responsibility of Placement Sites:** It is the responsibility of the faculty within each placement, working in concert with the Chief of Psychology for the institution, to ensure the availability of:
  - a. *Written descriptions of the psychological assessment services offered* within the placement site or otherwise available to clients or individuals served or participating at the site.
  - b. *Qualified supervisors* available to supervise fellows in site-based psychological assessments.
  - c. *Psychological assessment materials* that are up-to-date and in adequate supply.
  - d. *A process for identifying clients, individuals, and organizations* who could benefit from psychological assessment, including identifying appropriate referrals.
  - e. *A timely orientation for fellows in psychological assessment.* This may include: assessments offered, assessment materials, referral processes, supervision, and reporting formats.
  - f. *Time for fellows to complete assessments.* Time for fellows to complete site-based assessments should be factored into the 50-hour per week schedule.
6. **Assessment Training Requirement:** The training experience for each fellow will be shaped by the needs within the placement and the interests of the fellow. The experience will ensure that:
  - a. Each fellow receive training in using assessments in the flow of delivering services to clients.
  - b. Each fellow will complete a minimum of two assessments during the course of the internship year at their primary placement site.