

Hello! We are excited for you to consider joining us at SVMHI for fieldwork. We think that this will be a learning experience that you will not forget. Our hope is for you to get all you can out of being here and be able to bring elements of that into your work, no matter what setting you end up in. Here are some helpful/important tips:

About Us:

- SVMHI is a state inpatient psychiatric facility
- Population served: Adults 18 – 64 years old; Civil and Forensic patients
- Psychosocial Rehab Department is made up of Occupational Therapy, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Music Therapy, Recreational Therapy, a Nurse, Peer Support/Recovery Specialist, Chaplain, and Rehab Assistants

Work Schedule:

- All students are expected to complete our new hire training from 8 am – 5 pm with an hour lunch for the first five days. After that, the work schedule will be Monday through Friday from 8 am - 4:30 pm with a 30-minute lunch. We can be flexible and adjust hours for doctor's appointment/emergencies (only when approved by CI ahead of time), but plan on these being the consistent hours for OT and OTD Students. OTA Students will continue to follow the 8 am – 5 pm schedule unless this is changed by the CI.

Groups:

- We will primarily run groups focused on independent living skills, coping skills, and WRAP – Wellness Action Recovery Plan. We do cover other groups as needed so expect a wide variety of group coverage. You will have opportunity to shadow groups initially and will slowly integrate into leading groups.

Dress Code:

- Dress code can either be business casual or scrubs and a plain t-shirt. No rips, holes, tears, etc. Jeans are okay. Facial piercings are not allowed. We still assist with ADLs and transfers here, so wear closed toe shoes and we discourage wearing jewelry that hangs down or will get caught on anything.

Parking:

- Parking is available on the right side of the building when facing the hospital. The first week or so, you will be in orientation with new hires to get information about the basic that go on here. You can go in through the front door. After orientation, you can come in through the side door (staff break room) and come to the craft room (C-16) offices.

Vaccinations/Health Information:

- You do not have to have the flu shot or COVID vaccine but request documentation if you do. During flu season, you may be required to wear a surgical mask if refusing to take flu shot.

- You will need to provide a copy of your most recent PPD test and will still receive a 1 step here upon your start date.
- You will need to send a copy of your updated background check and drug screen within the same year as the fieldwork placement to HR. The site coordinator will assist with providing the appropriate email to complete this task.

What to do ahead of time?:

- As far as things you want to know before you start: Brush up on some of the mental health diagnoses we see (bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, neurocognitive disorder, autism, borderline personality disorder, depression, anxiety, etc.) and medical terminology.
- As far as assessments go, the most common are ILS/KELs. Once on the unit, we will have a more in-depth conversation about these things, our role here at SVMHI, and general information about the hospital.

Special Project:

- While you are with us, you will be expected to complete a project of your choosing. This project is something that you will identify as a need based on an initial needs assessment and discussion with your CI. Once the need is identified, you will work to address that need and/or do further research into solving the problem identified. This is an exciting time for you to show off your skills and knowledge and to provide our site with something that was missing.

Our expectations for you are that you do your best while you are here and be an active participant in your learning. To get the most out of this experience, you will need to communicate with both patients and all disciplines of staff. We encourage you to ask lots of questions and get to know the staff here. Stepping into this placement can be a little intimidating at first, but we are a welcoming and warm facility and love watching our students grow! Know that you will be surrounded by support and have an experience that many of your peers will miss out on.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

The OT and Psychosocial Rehab Department at SVMHI