

Are you a doctoral extern looking for both therapy and testing experience?

We offer paid externships to doctoral students with at least one year of supervised clinical experience (e.g., at their University's clinic).

An extern's responsibilities will include individual and group therapy and testing. You'll have opportunities to co-lead and build your own independent caseload for therapy. You'll also learn to put together testing batteries, administer, score, and interpret a variety of measures, and write reports for your own testing clients.

PTC serves individuals age 3+ so you'll have opportunities to work with both children and adults in therapy and testing. Many of our externs also enjoy providing family, couples, and parenting support.

We are a neurodiversity affirming practice. We work with many neurodivergent, LGBTQ+, and culturally diverse clients. Our approaches are supportive, client centered, and strengths based, not compliance based. We center the social model of disability. To learn more about neurodiversity affirming care, listen to our Psychology Supervisor, Dr. Jaclyn Halpern [here](#) or [here](#), or to both PTC Supervisors, Dr. Jaclyn Halpern and Laura Morlok, LCPC, LPC, RPT-S in [this](#) presentation.

SUPPORTS INCLUDE:

- 1 hour/week of individual tele supervision with Dr. Halpern (times TBD)
- 1 hour/week of group tele supervision with our full staff (Mondays at 12 PM)
- 1 hour/every other week of group testing tele supervision with testing psychologists (Tuesdays at 1 PM)
- In person supervision for testing cases (includes shadowing supervisors at the start of externship, and direct teaching of testing measures, learning to administer, score, and interpret) (hours and times TBD)
- 1 hour/month of staff meetings (times TBD)
- Access to therapy and testing trainings paid for by PTC
- Supervision through co-therapy (once weekly or bi-weekly, dates/times TBD) and recording of sessions once per semester
- Additional supervision in person or via Google Meet as needed

- Primary supervision is provided by Dr. Jaclyn Halpern who was initially licensed in 2010. Dr. Halpern is currently licensed in MD, DC, VA, and DE. Additional supervision may also be provided by other licensed psychologists and psychology associates within PTC.

REQUIREMENTS:

- At least 10 client facing hours/week of therapy and 1 testing per month. Fewer therapy hours and more testing is also an option. (times/days are flexible)
- Hybrid availability for both in person and virtual therapy, and in person availability for testing (in person takes places in our N. Bethesda/Rockville office; metro accessible)
- Access to private, confidential location, strong internet, and working device for tele services
- At least one year of supervised clinical experience (e.g., at their University's clinic).

COMPENSATION:

- Doctoral externs are employees of PTC and are paid on a fee for service. Externs will be compensated at an hourly rate of **\$25.00** per hour for all psychotherapy and consultation work completed for us, which includes all teletherapy sessions.
- Externs will be compensated at **15% of fees collected** for all testing cases.
- Externs will be compensated for up to two (2) hours per week of time attending staff meetings, in-house supervision and/or in-house training at an hourly rate of **\$15.00** per hour. Additional supervision hours are considered part of your training and are not compensated at this time.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- To apply, please email Dr. Jaclyn Halpern at testing@playfultherapy.net with your CV, 3 references, and 2-3 samples of your writing (e.g., a deidentified testing report if you have one; a deidentified letter you have written for a client; a clinical case conceptualization).

- Once applications are received, those under consideration will be scheduled for 1-2 interviews. Anyone who is not under consideration will receive an email letting them know.
- The deadline for submission for the 2026-2027 school year is February 1, 2026. All decisions will be made by early March 2026 (Greater Washington Clinical Psychology Programs Council Externship Match Date).
- PTC accepts up to 2 students each year, through the match, and may extend offers to 1-2 other students outside of the match.
- Start dates are flexible, with a summer start date no later than September 1, 2026. End dates are flexible late/spring summer 2027.
- You may also email Dr. Halpern with any questions you might have: testing@playfultherapy.net