

High Plains Psychology Internship Consortium (High Plains-PIC)

Videoconference Supervision and Training Policy

High Plains Psychology Internship Consortium (High Plains PIC) uses videoconferencing to provide shared weekly training experiences that promote education, interaction, and socialization among interns and faculty. Interns and faculty meet in a virtual conference room and interact via high-quality real-time transmission of simultaneous video and audio. Regularly scheduled training activities that occur in this format may include group supervision, research group supervision, and periodic didactic seminars (during the winter months, these will be held virtually). Group supervision occurs for two hours every week and is led by various supervisors from the High Plains PIC Training Committee on a rotating basis to provide interns with the opportunity to experience a breadth of supervisory relationships and supervision modalities. Research group supervision occurs for one hour monthly and is led by Robyn Hess, the Training Director of High Plains PIC and established researcher who serves as Associate Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. Finally, didactic seminars are held monthly during a day-long meeting (2 held virtually). Seminars are led by members of the Training Committee, as well as other guest speakers who demonstrate expertise in a relevant area. High Plains PIC highly values cohesion and socialization of intern cohorts, and virtual meetings via videoconferencing are an effective way to foster connection during the intervals between in-person meetings. The use of videoconference technology for group supervisory experiences is consistent with High Plains PIC's model and training philosophy.

High Plains PIC also recognizes the importance of supervisory relationships. Given the geographical distance between training sites, this model allows the interns to form greater connections to the training faculty and licensed psychologists in Colorado and Nebraska than would be experienced otherwise. It is expected that the foundation for these supervisory relationships is cultivated during High Plains PIC's orientation, such that interns form relationships with the training faculty prior to engaging in videoconference group supervision and research group supervision. Given that High Plains PIC includes sites located across state lines, specific case consultation will not be provided during group supervision. Cases may be discussed using generalities and for all clinical cases, full professional responsibility remains with the intern's primary supervisor, and any crises or other time-sensitive issues must be reported to that supervisor immediately. Interns are provided contact information for all High Plains PIC supervisors including email and phone numbers, so crises and time-sensitive information can be reported as necessary.

All High Plains PIC videoconferencing occurs over a secure network using HIPAA-compliant technology. Supervision sessions using this technology are never recorded, thus protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all trainees. All interns are provided with instructions regarding the use of the videoconferencing equipment at the outset of the training year. Technical difficulties that cannot be resolved on-site are directed to the site IT Department.