

El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium



Brochure

Mission

The mission of the El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium (EPPIC) is to provide a comprehensive training program for doctoral interns in psychology, in order to prepare competent psychologists and effective multicultural therapists. The internship consortium was created in August 2012 with the express purpose of pooling resources to develop a unique and well-rounded experience for doctoral psychology interns. The overarching goal of the program is to provide interns with a broad and general training experience in order to cultivate their skill and professional identity as psychologists.

Dedication to Diversity

The El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium provides a unique and diverse training experience for its interns. EPPIC trains interns to work as generalists in the field of psychology, while emphasizing proficiency in providing culturally competent services to diverse populations, including underserved and minority populations. Our training faculty and staff are dedicated to infusing a focus on diversity into every component of the internship. The rich Hispanic culture found in El Paso allows the EPPIC to offer a multicultural training experience that includes a unique opportunity to live and work with a minority population which represents the majority in this area. As part of our dedication to multicultural competence, we include elements of training that help interns develop an understanding of their own personal diversity and how this may impact clinical services with diverse populations. We encourage interns to develop an openness and “curiosity” toward learning about cultural differences so they may comfortably and effectively address cultural issues (similarities and differences) with their clients.

Program Structure

The consortium was developed to be a one-year, 2000 hour, full time internship training program. The consortium consists of two primary sites: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso - Department of Psychiatry, and University of Texas at El Paso – University Counseling Center. Potential candidates can apply specifically for the site(s) of their choosing, as each will be designated with a separate APPIC Match number. Training sites within the consortium provide the same overarching EPPIC curriculum which includes didactic training, clinical exposure, and supervision. The curriculum was designed to facilitate the development of a strong professional identity and well developed clinical skills. Interns will have a primary placement at a single training site, where they will spend the majority of their time. Interns will also have the opportunity to choose from several minor rotations offered within their primary site or the other training sites, in order to tailor their training to their individual interests and further diversify and enhance their internship experience.

Training Philosophy

The El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium utilizes a scientist-practitioner model of training. Our curriculum is designed to train psychologists with a foundation of research and scientific practice. Science is incorporated into every component of training through quality supervision, intensive didactic training, research opportunities, and clinical work. More information about the integration of research in the training program can be found below in the Research and Presentations section.

EPPIC offers a variety of training experiences through the inclusion of three diverse training sites, thereby providing a breadth of experience to doctoral interns. This breadth offers interns greater opportunity to tailor their training experience to their individual needs and interests. The EPPIC faculty and staff respect the knowledge, experience, exposure to new research, and ideas of new interns as highly valuable in maintaining a high standard of internship training, and in contributing to the provision of high quality clinical services to various populations of the El Paso Community. As a doctoral internship program, EPPIC prioritizes training. Any expectations surrounding the provision of clinical services by interns are considered secondary to training, and intern case loads are closely monitored to ensure their adequacy in allowing interns to achieve the goals and objectives of the training program.

Internship Sites

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso

TTUHSC at El Paso has one full-time doctoral intern position. The intern will provide outpatient clinical services that include the following: individual, family, and group therapy to adults, adolescents, and children; conduct psychological assessments and testing; and provide psychoeducation to consumers and their families. All clinical services may be provided in Spanish. In addition to providing psychological services, the intern is expected to work on a research project during the internship year and to participate in additional training and didactic opportunities offered at our training site. The intern will work with a research mentor during the internship year and complete a research project independent of the dissertation. There is flexibility in the scope, topic, and focus of the research project. At the end of the year, the intern is expected to present the results of their research project to a forum of their fellow interns and EPPIC faculty. The intern is also expected to present their project at TTUHSC's Annual Research Colloquium and is encouraged to submit their project to local, regional, and national research meetings as well as for publication as a brief report. Along with the weekly EPPIC seminars and didactics, the intern at TTUHSC at El Paso will participate in a number of site-specific training and didactic opportunities. Interns placed or rotating at TTUHSC at El Paso will be required to attend training on how to administer and score the Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview, a diagnostic structured interview; to participate and present a clinical case in the Department's weekly Clinical Case Conference; and to participate in TTUHSC's Cultural Competence Day Long Seminar. Additional training and joint didactic experiences with psychiatry residents include Journal Club meetings, Grand Rounds, and other seminars, webinars, and workshops. The full-time intern will also have the opportunity to teach medical students from the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine on various behavioral health topics such as Motivational Coaching and administration and scoring of mental health screens (PHQ-9, GAD-7, etc).

University of Texas at El Paso – University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center, University of Texas at El Paso considers the training of future professionals in the field of psychology an integral part of the overall mission of the Center. As part of their primary rotation at the UCC, interns will have the opportunity to engage in individual, couples, and group counseling. Interns will also be involved in doing triage and intakes which will also include crisis counseling. Interns will also be invited to be involved in providing students with career and vocational

counseling. Assessment and diagnosis utilizing the DSM-IV^{TR}, as well as assessments for learning disabilities, ADHD, emotional disabilities and possibly developmental disabilities are also part of the duties of interns working at the UCC. There will be opportunities for interns fluent in Spanish to administer assessments and provide counseling in Spanish. Interns will also be working with students and staff providing outreach and consultation services. As part of the UCC's Advanced Practicum Training Program, Interns will supervise one masters or doctoral level practicum student each semester. Interns will provide two formal case presentations during the year as well as a formal research project/presentation to the professional staff. Interns will receive additional training and supervision by attending weekly peer case review meetings and attending bi-monthly multicultural, assessment, and supervision seminars. Interns will develop two outreach presentations, provide two formal case presentations and complete one research project during the year.

Training Experience

Across training sites, interns are expected to dedicate approximately 25% of their time to Intervention Services. Interns will also spend approximately 20% of their time in assessment. Approximately 10% of their time will be engaged in didactic training as well as 10% for supervision. Interns will also dedicate 10% of their time in minor rotations and 10% engaged in research and presentation preparation. The final 15% of interns' time will be dedicated to site-specific training activities and administrative responsibilities.

Intervention

Interns will receive experience in providing an wide range of intervention services. The types in intervention services may include but are not in limited to the following: individual, couples, family, group counseling; career counseling; consultation; triage and crisis intervention; and prevention and outreach services. Interns dedicate approximately 13 to 15 hours to intervention at their primary sites.

Assessment

Interns are expected to complete a minimum of five integrated psychological reports during the internship year. Depending on the training site or rotation, the maximum number of integrated reports will vary. These comprehensive assessments may include, but are not limited to, a combination of the following: clinical and diagnostic interviewing (structured and semi-structured interviews), symptom inventories, cognitive assessments, academic evaluations, personality testing, standardized self-report instruments, projective assessments, and review of medical records.

Didactic Training

EPPIC includes an intensive didactic training series as a major component of its core curriculum. Through these seminars, interns are exposed to empirical research, evidence-based practices, and scholarly topics that are intended to round out their academic training and to enhance their ability to apply scientific and critical thinking to their clinical work. As part of the didactic program offered through EPPIC, interns will also have the opportunity to meet and learn from fellow researchers in the field of

psychology. Interns will attend presentations throughout the year given by these professionals and learn about new research that is being conducted.

All EPPIC interns will receive the following didactic training together: Supervision Seminar, Multicultural Seminar, Assessment Seminar, and Intern Training Seminar. These training seminars will provide interns with 3 hours of didactic training per week. Interns may also receive additional didactic training at their individual primary training sites.

- Intern Training Seminar: Interns will meet weekly for one and a half hour to participate in academic seminars offered by professionals from the EPPIC, or professionals from the community. Topics such as treatment, cultural issues, diagnosis, treatment plans, theory, ethics and legal issues, and post graduate career planning are a few of the issues that may be discussed. Interns will also be required to present at the training seminar the findings of their major research project, dissertation, or research.
- Multicultural Seminar: Interns will attend a one and a half hour seminar offered once per month regarding multicultural issues which is designed specifically to help interns understand their personal, ethnic, and cultural background and its impact on the client-therapist relationship. Interns will also discuss the variety of multicultural issues spanning a variety of topics.
- Supervision Seminar: Interns will attend a monthly one and a half hour seminar designed to help interns gain experience in providing supervision. Interns will study the internship process, explore and present on different models of supervision, as well as discuss certain topics related to supervision including parallel processing, confrontation, evaluation, ethics etc.
- Assessment Seminar: A one and a half hour assessment seminar will be held twice per month covering DSM-IV diagnosis, assessment, and report writing. Topics such as assessment theory, standardized and projective testing, test interpretation, and report writing will be covered. Time will also be allotted for interns to discuss and consult regarding the clients they are currently assessing as they fulfill the assessment component of their internship program.

Supervision

Each intern will be assigned a licensed psychologist within their primary training site as their primary supervisor. Interns will receive a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week from their primary supervisor, one hour of group supervision led by the EPPIC faculty on a rotating basis, and one-half hour of supervision per week from their minor rotation supervisor.

Each site will provide the intern an additional one half to one full hour of supervision per week, the nature of which will vary by training site. Please refer to individual site descriptions for more information regarding supervision. If interns participate in providing supervision to practicum students, they will receive an additional hour of supervision each week from a licensed psychologist in order to support that experience. All interns will receive a minimum of 4 hours of supervision each week.

Minor Rotations

Interns will participate in two 6-month minor rotations. Students are given the opportunity to select from a variety of elective rotation foci regardless of their primary training placement. Below are the current minor rotations offered by the consortium:

UTEP-UCC

Assessment Rotation: This minor rotation will offer an expanded assessment experience beyond the required EPPIC assessment curriculum for those interns who are interested in further honing their assessment skills. Interns will consult with students coming to the Center for assessment in order to develop a defined diagnostic question, and select and administer an appropriate battery of measures. Interns will then write a formal assessment report. This rotation will include the completion of three formal assessments and associated reports. ADHD, learning disabilities, personality and career assessments are the most common assessments performed.

Career Counseling Rotation: Interns interested in developing greater knowledge and skill in the area of career counseling may choose this minor rotation with the University Career Center. Responsibilities include both career counseling and assessment; helping students with cover letters and resumes; mock interviewing; and teaching workshops.

Consultation/Liaison Rotation: Interns who are interested in more experience with consultation may choose to work as a liaison to Miner Village and Miner Heights, our on-campus housing facilities. Responsibilities will include being on site to consult with head residents and housing staff; providing outreach to on-campus residents; and staff training.

Outreach Rotation: Interns who wish to gain additional experience in outreach can work with the UCC's outreach coordinator in providing outreach services to the UTEP community. Interns have the opportunity to provide presentations, workshops, and classes on a variety of subjects such as self care, counseling center services, interpersonal skills, academic enhancement, and personal enrichment. Interns will also have the opportunity to create two of their own outreach presentations which may be used to educate and inform future students and staff.

Supervision Rotation: Interns will have the opportunity to supervise either a masters or doctoral level student participating in the UCC's Advanced Practicum Training program. Interns will provide one hour of individual supervision per week. Interns will be responsible for reviewing their trainee's notes and viewing their sessions. Interns will be responsible for assessing their trainee's progress and development and for their end-of-the-semester evaluation. Interns who choose this rotation will be offered one hour of supervision of supervision with a licensed psychologist at the UCC.

TTUHSC at El Paso

Evidence-Based Psychotherapy (EBP) and Assessment Rotation. The intern will provide individual psychotherapy and/or co-lead EBP group therapies. Interns may provide the following interventions: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy,

Social Skills Training for Serious Mental Illness, Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group, Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy, or Problem Solving Training Group. The intern is expected to conduct psychological testing. Comprehensive assessments will include training and supervision in the use of semi-structured interviews (e.g., Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression), personality assessments (e.g., MMPI-2), and standardized self-report instruments (e.g., BDI).

Behavioral Medicine Rotation. In this rotation, the intern will provide psychological services to patients with co-morbid medical conditions such as HIV, cancer, and diabetes. Clinical services may include conducting intake evaluations and providing brief interventions, individual therapy, family therapy, and group therapy. Interns may also provide consultation to other health care providers and trainees. Interns will work alongside a licensed clinical social worker, psychiatrists, psychiatry residents, and other specialty physicians.

Research Rotation (based on availability). This rotation is based on availability of research opportunities. If the rotation is available, the intern will be mentored by a faculty member and will participate in various research activities within a research project. Research activities include, but is not limited to, implementing research protocols, managing databases, entering and analyzing data, and working with the faculty member's research team. Depending on the intern's research mentor, the intern may be required to produce a research product such as a presentation poster or brief manuscript.

* *Interns must select from the minor rotations offered at the UCC as their first rotation and are then free to select a minor rotation from TTUHSC for their second rotation.*

Research and Presentations

Interns will have the opportunity to participate in research offered at their primary sites or through minor rotations. Interns are also given time to pursue their own research interests or continue their work on dissertations. Interns will also have the opportunity to present their current dissertation findings to fellow interns, faculty, and staff participating in the consortium. Interns who wish to prepare their research for publication or presentation at professional conferences will be encouraged and supported in doing so.

Interns are expected to engage in several activities throughout the year to demonstrate their ability to integrate current research and best practices into their clinical work. Interns will provide at least two comprehensive case presentations during the year. These case presentations will be of clients with whom they are currently working. Interns will use current research and scholarly readings to support the identification of a theoretical approach, development of a case conceptualization and generation of a treatment plan. Any evidence-based or promising practices appropriate to the case will be reviewed and considered in treatment planning. Interns will also be required to take into consideration issues of diversity which may impact their conceptualization and treatment plan. Prior written consent from

clients must be obtained. Interns will present this information during the group supervision meeting in order to receive feedback and suggestions.

Interns will be required to submit one integration paper identified as an “intern research project.” Although the projects will vary depending upon the site, this project’s primary function is to integrate the science of psychology with its actual practice. As part of the project, interns are also asked to include carefully considered issues of diversity and the potential impact on the topic of interest.

Stipend, Benefits, and Resources

The stipend across consortium sites will be \$24,000. The following benefits are offered to all interns as part of the basic benefits package: UT SELECT Medical Plan, with Prescription Drug Coverage, basic group life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment. Interns are also eligible to choose from a number of optional coverage benefits such as UT SELECT Medical Plan, with Prescription Drug Coverage for dependents, dental insurance, vision etc. Interns will receive vacation leave, paid holiday leave, and sick leave. Please see individual sites for specifics.

EPPIC interns have access to numerous resources. Assessment and other training materials are provided by each training site, and additional materials that may be needed may be purchased using consortium funding with Training Committee approval. Each intern additionally has access to administrative and IT support through their primary training site.

Accreditation Status

The El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). The EPPIC is currently a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and participates in the National Match.

Questions specifically related to the program’s accreditation status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 336-5979
Email: apaaccred@apa.org

Application Process

The consortium currently offers 4 full-time internship positions. Three positions at the University of Texas at El Paso - University Counseling Center, and one position at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso - Department of Psychiatry.

Prior to applying to the consortium, interns must meet the following criteria:

- All interns, prior to starting their internship program at the EPPIC, are required to have completed their coursework and to have passed all of their required comprehensive examinations or projected to have these completed before internship. Interns are also expected to have at least three semesters of practicum experience at the doctoral level prior to the start of the internship program (500 intervention hours). If the intern's program requires a dissertation, the intern must have successfully defended their dissertation proposal prior to starting their internship experience.
- Doctoral Psychology Interns must have a bachelors degree and be currently enrolled and be in good standing in a doctoral level counseling or clinical psychology program.
- It is our expectation that interns come prepared with the requisite counseling skills commensurate with a doctoral level candidate starting in a doctoral internship program.

Students may select the primary training site(s) within the consortium for which they are applying by locating the National Match number below. EPPIC participates in the APPIC application and selection process, thus applicants should utilize APPIC's online process for submitting the following application materials:

- Completed On-line APPI application (Accessible through www.appic.org) which includes the following:
 - Cover Letter
 - Current Curriculum Vitae
 - Three letters of recommendation. Two of the letters must be from direct supervisors who can comment on your clinical work.
 - Official transcripts of all graduate coursework.

Application deadline is November 2nd. Applicants are not eligible for review until all required application materials are received. Applicants will be notified of their interview status by December 15. EPPIC prefers to conduct their interviews via video conference; however, if this option is unavailable to candidates, arrangements will be made for a phone interview.

Selection Process

Screening

Completed applications will be reviewed by selected members of each consortium site. Evaluations are based upon a point system which takes into regard basic criteria for readiness for internship;

intervention, assessment and supervision hours; types of intervention and assessment experiences, letters of recommendation and essays; and overall fit with the consortium and/or individual sites. If the applicant is no longer under review they will be notified via e-mail of their application status by December 15.

Interviews

If the applicant has passed the screening process, he/she will be invited to participate in an interview. Interviews will be conducted via video conference. Applicants will be contacted by phone and/or email to set-up this interview. Interviews take place the first two weeks in January.

Selection

Each primary site from the consortium is registered to participate in the National Match. Applicants must include the national match number of the primary site for which he/she is applying on the APPI application. To be considered, applicants must be registered with the [National Matching Services Inc](#) through APPIC.

National Match Numbers for Primary Sites

University of Texas at El Paso - University Counseling Center:	222212
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Psychiatry:	222213

Application Deadline

Application deadline for all materials is **November 2nd**.

Applicants are not eligible for review until all required application materials are received.

Training Sites

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso

1 Full-Time Funded Position

General Information

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Psychiatry was founded in 1976, as part of what was then a two-year medical school in El Paso. Its mandate was to serve as part of a regional academic health center focused on primary care and the teaching of 3rd and 4th year medical students and residents. A residency in psychiatry was established and accredited in 1978. With the recent expansion to a four year medical school, the Department's mission has grown to include teaching medical students in all four years of the curriculum. The Department has also begun to engage in significant research and publication in collaboration with the Center for Excellence in Neurosciences on campus, with a specific focus on border health issues. The Department has multiple clinicians (including the Chair) and support staff who are fluently bilingual and who regularly provide services in Spanish. The Department conducts outpatient clinics daily in the El Paso Psychiatric Center located on campus. Faculty members are expected to actively teach residents, medical students, and doctoral psychology interns with the ultimate goal of retaining graduates to remain in El Paso and obtain faculty positions at the campus.

The Department conducts outpatient clinics daily in the El Paso Psychiatric Center located on campus. The Center has ample free parking and it is easily accessed via a city bus line. The Department has 4,083 square feet of space for clinical work. Of patients seen from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, 22% were non-Hispanic White, 1% were African-American, and the vast majority were of Hispanic descent. Twenty percent were children under the age of 18, 67% were between the ages of 18-65 years of age, and 13% were over the age of 65. Only 26% of patients had private insurance, with 18% covered by Medicare and 19% by Medicaid.

Staff

Rebecca M. Pasillas, PhD – Site Training Director

Amelia Leony-Carrete, LCSW

Mercedes E. Ramirez, MD

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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso

Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry
4800 Alberta Ave
El Paso, TX 79905-2709

University of Texas at El Paso - University Counseling Center

3 Full-Time Funded Positions

General Information

The University of Texas at El Paso's University Counseling Center (UCC) has been offering psychological services and support for its students since 1967. The University Counseling Center staff believes that good mental health is the cornerstone of personal, academic, and career success. As such, the University Counseling Center's mission is to support the students of the University of Texas at El Paso in their personal, academic, and career endeavors by providing developmental, remedial and preventative mental health services to students. The center's staff also believes that a healthy environment facilitates mental health. Therefore the University Counseling Center aims to support the learning environment of the University by providing outreach programming for students and consultative services regarding student concerns to faculty and staff.

The University counseling Center is dedicated to providing high quality mental health services that support the student's ability to benefit from their experience at the University of Texas at El Paso. To this end the Center provides career counseling; psycho-educational workshops; individual, group, and couples counseling; crisis intervention; and professional training experiences that are responsive to the individual, cultural, and demographic diversity of our students.

Staff

Sherri Terrell, EdD – Counseling Center Director

Brian Sneed, PhD – Assistant Director/Director of Training

Edna Reyes-Wilson, PhD

Jorge Marquez, PhD

Cecilia Holguin, LCSW

Jeffrey Kuroiwa, LPC

Contact Information:

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EPPIC Domains, Goals, & Objectives

Domain 1 – Clinical Skills: Goals within this domain focus on the development of clinical skills and knowledge requisite for independent practice as generalists in the field of psychology.

Goal 1: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Psychological Intervention**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Case conceptualization and treatment planning
- Implementation of therapeutic interventions
- Crisis Intervention
- Therapeutic Skills

Goal 2: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Assessment and Diagnosis**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Diagnostic Skill
- Instrument selection, administration, and scoring
- Interpretation
- Report Writing
- Communicating Results

Goal 3: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Consultation**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Team approach
- Consultation skills
- Theories and Methods of Consultation

Goal 4: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Providing Supervision**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Theories and Methods of Supervision
- Supervision process
- Supervision skill

Domain 2 - Diversity: Goals within this domain focus on the development of cultural competency through understanding cultural and individual diversity issues, as well as becoming a “diversity aware” practitioner.

Goal 5: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Understanding Cultural and Individual Diversity**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Cultural awareness
- Effects of culture on clinical activities
- Integration of Science and Practice

Goal 6: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Cultural Competency Skills**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Comfort with cultural diversity
- Intervention Skills

Domain 3 – Science Practice Integration: Goals within this domain focus on the integration of scientific knowledge, academic learning and training with the clinical practice of psychology.

Goal 7: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Science - Practice Integration**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Application of scientific knowledge to practice
- Program Evaluation

Domain 4 – Professional Identity: Goals within this domain focus on growth as practitioners development in the areas of professional identity, ethics, responsibility, and conduct which will contribute to the overall enhancement of the profession.

Goal 8: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Ethical Conduct**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Knowledge of ethical, legal, and professional standards
- Follows ethical principles and guidelines

Goal 9: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Professionalism**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Professional awareness
- Interpersonal relationships
- Self awareness
- Clinical documentation
- Case Management

Goal 10: Interns will achieve competence in the area of **Supervision**.

Objectives related to this goal include the achievement of competence in the following:

- Supervision process
- Effective use of supervision

Intern Expectations

The El Paso Psychology Internship is a one year, full-time, supervised internship program. Interns are expected to complete 2000 hours of training within a one-year period. Interns are expected to develop competency in the previously stated goals and objectives set forth by the consortium training program. Interns are expected to abide by the APA Code of Ethics, as well as the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists' "Rules of Practice." Interns will also be expected to comply with the requirements of the EPPIC training program and the rules and regulations set forth by their hiring agency, The University of Texas at El Paso and their individual training sites.

The EPPIC has developed Due Process guidelines to help supervisors and consortium personnel address concerns regarding intern performance. These guidelines also assist in addressing intern concerns regarding training. This document is available for download at www.utep.edu/eppic under the menu Item "Policies and Procedures."

Consortium Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium feel free to contact the following:

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