Memo to Students
Fall 2015
Postdoctoral Training – Important Information!

Dear Doctoral Students:

It’s time! - To consider your need for Postdoctoral Training

A number of students have contacted us regarding resources for finding postdoctoral training opportunities. For those of you who are anticipating meeting the deadlines for June 2016 Commencement or for an August degree award date this is an appropriate time to look ahead as you plan to accrue the requisite postdoctoral training hours that will make you eligible for licensure as a Health Service Provider (HSP) in Psychology in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (and in most other states.)

It is important that all of you be aware of 2013 legislative changes that address the hours of accrued training (3,200), pre and/or postdoctoral that are required for license eligibility in the Commonwealth. Please carefully review all the current regulations; these can be found at www.mass.gov. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the official regulations for Massachusetts and/or for any other states in which you may wish to consider licensure.

Some of you may be eligible for licensure on receipt of your degree if you have completed your 2,000 hours of half-time internships and accrued an additional 1200 hours of appropriately supervised training before you graduate. Others may need additional hours and or may choose to apply for a formal postdoctoral fellowship. Be reminded that some states and some areas of specialty practice (e.g., Neuropsychology) require documented and/or formal postdoctoral fellowship training. The William James College Office of Field Education recommends that all graduates undertake traditional postdoctoral training, prelicensure, in order to ensure maximum geographic and career specialty flexibility in the future.
This may feel like a new and vague venture for many of you. It will be the first time since you matriculated at William James that the search for a training site is not organized for you by the Office of Field Education. This is not for lack of concern on our part. It is a reflection of the reality that once you receive your degree you become an independent professional as well as the reality that the school does not have contractual relationships with postdoctoral training centers offering postdoctoral training in the same way we do with institutions offering predoctoral practica and internships. We will support you as best we can with whatever information we have available.

The following are a few suggestions and resources that are available and may be helpful to you:

**Where Should I Begin My Postdoc Search?**

- **Know the postdoctoral requirements** from the state which you wish to become licensed. Visit the [Career Services](#) page on the William James website for details.
- Search [CareerLink](#), William James College’s online local and national job posting board; new opportunities are posted weekly.
  - Did you see a job that interests you but it’s not a postdoc? Contact that organization and ask if a postdoctoral position is possible. Some agencies will be eager to train a postdoc with the expectation that they may move into a staff position; there’s no harm in asking!
- Search the [APPIC Directory](#).
  - As many of you have noted, these listings are sparse—and are likely to remain so. (They identify primarily those formal fellowships associated with APA specialty areas. This focus may change with the implementation of revisions in training generated by legislative adjustments in sequence-of-licensing regulations that are emerging across the country.)
- For a detailed list of postdoctoral sites with contact information in New England, please visit the Career Services section of [MyCampus](#).
  - This is a William James College generated list which we update on a yearly basis.
- There are many different resources available that will assist you in your search for a postdoc. Read about them in [this article on the APA website](#).
How Should I Prepare for the Application and Interview Process?

- **Update your curriculum vitae/resume** and cover letter. Resume and cover letter review is available by appointment through Mary-Alice Howard, Director of Human Resources. Contact her at mary-alice_howard@williamjames.edu. Don’t hesitate to ask your advisor and/or a professor with whom you have a close relationship to review these, as well.

- **Practice interviewing** using career advice from Monster.com. Meet with your advisor, your mentor and/or a colleague to role play and sharpen your interview focus.

- **Network!** Consult with your Advisors, Program Directors, Supervisors and colleagues from prior training sites as well as colleagues at other academic or training programs.

- **Join LinkedIn** to build your professional Network! Read why you should join here: The Value of LinkedIn.

- Students from all programs are welcome to discuss career options with Dr. Alan Beck, Director of Alumni Relations. Please contact him at alan_beck@williamjames.edu to schedule an appointment.

Congratulations as you approach the completion of your degree requirements and best wishes on this next quest.

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