

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Forensic Assessment Unit**Location: 700 Gordon Street, Whitby, ON L1N 5S9**

Year 1 Practicum

Dates: January 10- May 31, 2024

Please provide a description of the practicum site and student activities:

This placement will provide students with the opportunity to gain experience on two inpatient forensic mental health units at Ontario Shores: The Forensic Assessment Unit (FAU) and the Forensic Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit (FARU). Both these units are secure forensic units, meaning the patients require staff supervision if taken off unit.

Forensic Assessment Unit (FAU) with Glynis M:

The main social work role on the Forensic Assessment Unit is to complete the Psychosocial Assessment (PSA). This involves in-depth interviews with the patient and their families in order to understand their developmental/psychosocial history as well as understanding the patient's mental status around the time of their charges. By the end of this placement, you will have developed interviewing, assessment, and formulation skills. During this placement, you will attend morning rounds and case conferences to provide a social work perspective to the patient's treatment and recovery.

Regarding my learning style and supervision, you will be shadowing me when I interview the patients and/or families, and when you are ready, I'll shadow you. By the end of this practicum, you will be able to complete an assessment on your own. I believe that supervision is an important component, and we can meet weekly or every other week to discuss the placement.

The Forensic Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit with Melissa M:

The Forensic Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit is a secure inpatient unit with patients undergoing assessment as described above, and patients undergoing rehabilitation who have been deemed Not Criminal Responsible by account of Mental Disorder (NCRMD). Patients who are NCRMD typically are diagnosed with schizophrenia or other chronic psychotic disorders. These patients are under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Review Board (instead of the Criminal Code of Canada) and are ordered to undergo rehabilitation with the ultimate goal of discharge into the community. The target length of stay is 730 days. The main role of the Social Worker on this unit is to assist with treatment planning, provide education and support to patients and their families, complete psychosocial assessments, to ensure patients basic needs are met (i.e. IDs, bank accounts etc), and advocate where necessary. By the end of this placement, you will have developed skills around building therapeutic alliances, identifying gaps in treatment, and advocacy.

During this placement, you will attend morning safety rounds and case conferences to provide a social work perspective to the patient's treatment and recovery, and opportunity to meet one-on-one with clients to provide them support. The student will have the opportunity to shadow the supervisor and engage with the clients directly. The student will also have the opportunity to meet with patients one-on-one when comfortable. The student will have individual time for self-reflections and to complete chart reviews and

readings, as well as time with the supervisor on the unit. Weekly meetings will be arranged for direct supervision between with supervisor and the student.

By the end of this placement, you will also understand the role of social work within a multidisciplinary team and within the hospital by attending monthly Social Work Council meetings and monthly in-patient forensic social work meetings. This placement also provides opportunities to develop group facilitation and therapy skills.

Practicum Requirements.

- Immunizations per PHA Guidelines
- N95 Respirator/Mask Fitting
- Covid Vaccinations
- Police Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check
- Comfort working with the population being served (major mental illness and contact with the law)
- Report writing and documentation

Does your practicum require any previous experience? If yes, please specify.

No.

Please indicate whether this practicum will be in-person, remote or hybrid.

in-person

Please indicate whether this practicum will involve direct work or a mix of direct and indirect.

Direct

Field Instructor(s') name and credentials (BSW and/or MSW)

Glynis Marcus, MSW, RSW

Melissa Meridis MSW RSW

Do you require a resume? Or resume and cover letter?

both

Accessibility Considerations:

- Will the student have access to a private space for notes or computer use? Yes
- Are there breaks between clients/patients/meetings? Sometimes
- Is the practicum considered fast-paced? Fast
- Is there a high noise level in the practicum? Low
- Is the site wheelchair accessible? Yes
- What are the physical demands of the practicum? n/a

- Are there any other accessibility considerations that potential applicants with disabilities should be aware of? n/a

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060

If you are interested in this practicum, please send a cover letter and resume to miri.ben.dat@utoronto.ca by 4 pm on October 23, 2023. Applications will be forwarded on to the site.