



Philadelphia Connections is an initiative of the Family Training & Advocacy Center, the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, and Philadelphia Area Colleges and Universities.

Philadelphia Connections

Enhanced Placement Program

Enhanced Placement Program Student Handbook

Enhanced Placement Program – Background

The Enhanced Placement program (EP) is a city-funded effort that started in 1999 by **Philadelphia Connections**. Through the EP program, Philadelphia Connections provides additional training and educational opportunities to ensure that students are better prepared to work with individuals receiving services in the public behavioral health system, and their families.

The EP program is also aimed at encouraging students to consider taking jobs within community behavioral health agencies after graduation. The Philadelphia Connections program also provides funding and support to schools, public behavioral health care provider agencies, and other projects with a goal to enhance field placement or internship experiences for students planning to work in the behavioral health field.

Qualifying for the Enhanced Placement Program

- You are a student who is enrolled in a graduate program for social work (or 4th years BSW), psychology, counseling, or other program that specializes in behavioral health.
- You are in or about to enter a fieldwork placement at a behavioral health provider or a site which works with individuals who have behavioral health needs.
- You have informed your university field director and/or field instructor that you would like to participate and they have agreed to your participation.
- You have read the student packet and understand the contents within it, what is expected of you as a student, and agree to the policies and procedures.

Enhanced Placement Program Benefits

1. Each EP student (if interning at a CBH funded agency) receives a stipend of \$500.00 per school year (4th year BSW students receive \$300), as an incentive for being involved in the EP program and to cover any expenses associated with attending EP functions.



2. All EP students are provided with five days of seminars on content commonly needed in their field placements or internships, as well as a career day.
3. Other presentations and workshops, which are not required, are offered to EP students throughout the year, free of charge.
4. Additional enhancements to the EP students' placements may be negotiated by Connections with each school-agency partnership.
5. As a benefit to field supervisors of EP students, Connections offers a free seminar series which provides low cost CEU credits.
6. Alumni of the EP program are also invited to these ongoing educational programs, and to be a part of the Philadelphia Connections Alumni Association (PCAA).

Stipends

In order to receive the stipend, you must:

1. Be matriculated in a graduate program for social work, counseling, psychology or other program that specializes in behavioral healthcare OR be in the 4th year of an undergraduate social work program.
2. Be enrolled for a field placement/internship at a Community Behavioral Health (CBH) funded agency.
3. You must participate in all classes to receive the full stipend.
4. It is expected that you will participate in the end of year career day.
5. You must participate in all testing and survey's regarding the program which assists in improving the quality of the program.
6. You must complete and return a Connections Invoice form as directed below:

First Semester:

Fill out an invoice your first day of EP classes.

Second Semester:



Fill out an invoice at your final day of EP classes. You must send in your invoice by April 21st to be assured of receiving the second stipend payment.

The invoices take up to eight weeks to process after we receive them, so you may not get a check for up to eight weeks after your invoice arrives at Connections.

Graduate EP students will receive a stipend of \$500 (disbursed in two payments of \$250).
Fourth-year BSW EP students will receive a stipend of \$300 (disbursed in two payments \$150).

EP Enhancement Seminars

Location:

Wells Fargo Building
123 South Broad Street, 23rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19109

Time: 8:45am to 3:45pm.

The seminars take place on six field placement days during the school year, and cover the following:

- Achieving Optimal Outcomes for People with Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Illness
- Basic Psychopharmacology
- Co-Occurring Disorders
- Diagnostic Issues – DSM
- Ethical Issues
- Family and Consumer Perspectives
- Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS)
- Psychopharmacology, Recovery & Ethics
- Suicide Assessment and Intervention
- Career Panel & Career Day

EP Structure

Each student will be assigned to a cohort. You will be told which group you are in as soon as you are accepted to the EP program. If you have a preference for a certain group and set of dates, please contact us to make this known to us as soon as possible. Seminars are held on Mondays and



Fridays. Two topics are covered in one day. Although two cohorts are scheduled for the same time, they will usually meet separately.

Monday Groups

Groups 1&2, 3&4, and 5&6 will meet throughout the entire school year

Friday Groups

The Friday I Group will meet mostly in the fall semester; the Friday II will meet mostly in the spring semester.

Group Size

Groups are generally made up of fifteen students or less to allow for maximum discussion and interaction with seminar presenters. However, class size may vary dependent upon student need for certain dates, or days.

Lunches

Lunch will be served free of charge. ****Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate special dietary needs at this time as lunches must be ordered prior to the finalization of our EP enrollment process. We suggest you prepare accordingly.***

Testing and Surveys

Testing and surveys are used by Connections to determine the effectiveness of the seminars, and the effectiveness of our program. They are not related to grades from your school or agency evaluations, however your participation is required in order for you to receive a stipend.

You will be asked to complete the following:

- 1.) **A pre-test before each seminar**
- 2.) **A post-test after each seminar**
- 3.) **Presenter feedback**
- 4.) **At the end of the first semester, feedback regarding your experience with your field placement.**
- 5.) **At the end of the second semester, feedback regarding your experience with your field placement, your experience with EP program, and demographic information.**

Testing and surveys will be sent to you via your email. When applying to the EP program, please use an email that you will be able to utilize regularly, and will allow you the flexibility to complete testing and surveys at your convenience. (Example, emails from your internship may not be accessible when you are not physically in the building, or may have restrictions).

If you have trouble accessing the testing, or have an inability to complete testing online, please contact us immediately so that we can troubleshoot.



Pretesting will close the morning of your seminar, and you will not be able to complete them after that time. If for some reason you are unable to complete your pretest, please make us aware.

Post testing will close 30 days after you've completed the seminar, however we suggest you take it soon after you receive it, as your retention will be better when the material is fresher in your mind.

Tardiness

Lateness, though at times unavoidable, is a disruption to not only the presenter, but the class as a whole. As a professional in the field, we ask you to be mindful of how your lateness will affect others, and to plan accordingly in order to avoid this disruption. If you know that you will be late, please contact EP Office Manager, Ms. Green, as soon as possible.

Use of Phones

Being present while others are speaking will be an important skill while in the field. We ask that you put your phone on silent, and use it only during breaks or in the case of an emergency. Please do not surf the internet, social media, or text on your phone while in class. Being in the moment, and giving the speaker your undivided attention is an act of common courtesy. Please pay the seminar speaker the same courtesy you would like if you were speaking.

Student Conduct

We believe that the students that join us for the EP program are indeed the best and the brightest who proudly represent their universities, their provider agencies, and their future professions. With this in mind, we request that students remain respectful in their interactions with the presenters and one another. Class should be a time for respectful dialogue, and fruitful discussion. We highly recommend having a familiarity with your universities code of conduct, as well as your future professions code of ethics. What is expected of you in those documents is also what is expected of you within the EP program.

Access the NASW code of ethics here

<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

Access the APA code of ethics here

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/>

Concerns, conflicts, or grievances

Although rare, sometimes students have significant concerns about the program or their internship placement. If this occurs, Philadelphia Connections welcomes the opportunity to discuss those concerns with you, however, at our discretion, we may ask that your field supervisor or director become involved in the conversation if the situation warrants their involvement.



Attendance

Your participation in all five EP Enhanced Seminar days and the career day is a requirement to be a part of the EP program. In any situation you cannot attend your scheduled seminar, please call the Connections office in advance and inform Ms. Green.

Rescheduling

If you need to reschedule (due to emergency/illness ect) please contact Ms. Green. **Failure to inform us of absences may jeopardize your EP enrollment status.**

Withdrawal from EP Program

If you are thinking about withdrawing from the program, please let us know. We may be able to work out a solution with you. If you are certain you are unable to complete the EP program, please contact Ms. Green.

2017 - 2018 Monday EP Tentative Seminar Schedule

Seminars are held from 8:45am to noon and from 12:45pm to 3:45pm



Below are the dates of the 2018-19 Monday and Friday Enhancement Placement Seminars

Topics for specific seminar times may be subject to change. Groups 5 & 6 will only be scheduled if numbers of enrolled students requires.

Date	Groups	Topics	Presenters
9/10 am/pm	1 & 2	Ethics	Tom Sheeran
9/10 am/pm	1 & 2	Meds I	Craig Strickland
9/17 am/pm	3 & 4	Family & Consumer MH Perspectives	Vivian Spiese Kathy Cantwell Maggie Hackman
9/17 am/pm	3 & 4	Philadelphia Behavioral Health System Overview	Laura DeRiggi
9/21 (Friday I) am/pm		Suicide Assessment & Intervention	Tom Sheeran
9/21 (Friday I) am/ pm		Ethics	Tom Sheeran
9/24 am/pm	5 & 6	Philadelphia Behavioral Health System Overview	Laura DeRiggi
9/24 am/pm	5 & 6	Family & Consumer MH Perspectives	Kathy Cantwell Maggie Hackman Vivian Spiese
10/12 (Friday I) am/pm		Philadelphia Behavioral Health System Overview	Laura DeRiggi
10/12 (Friday I) am/pm		Family & Consumer MH Perspectives	Vivian Spiese Kathy Cantwell Maggie Hackman

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10/15 am/pm	1 & 2	Philadelphia Behavioral Health System Overview	Laura DeRiggi
10/15 am/pm	1 & 2	Family & Consumer MH Perspectives	Vivian Spiese Kathy Cantwell Maggie Hackman
10/19 (Friday I) am/pm		Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Jack Toomey Mimi Wong
10/19 (Friday I) am/pm Strickland		Meds 1	Craig
10/22 am/pm	3 & 4	DSM	Kate Ledwith
10/22 am/pm	3 & 4	Meds 1	Craig Strickland
10/26 (Friday I) am/pm		DSM	Kate Ledwith
10/26 (Friday I) am/pm		Dual Dx	Caryn Wetcher
11/5 am/pm	5 & 6	Meds 1	Craig Strickland
11/5 am/pm	5 & 6	Suicide Assessment & Interventions	Tom Sheeran
11/9 (Friday I) am/pm		Meds 2	Craig Strickland
11/9 (Friday I) am/pm		Final Session: Certificate Presentation; Group Feedback;	Valerie Ferri Susan Lonker
11/19 am/pm	1 & 2	Suicide Assessment & Interventions	Laura DeRiggi

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11/19 am/pm	1 & 2	Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Jack Toomey Mimi Wong
11/30 (Friday II) am/pm		DSM	Kate Ledwith
11/30 (Friday II) am/pm		Dual Dx	Caryn Wetcher
12/3 am/pm	3 & 4	Suicide Assessment & Interventions	Tom Sheeran
12/3 am/pm	3 & 4	Ethics	Tom Sheeran
12/10 am/pm	5 & 6	DSM	Kate Ledwith
12/10 am/pm	5 & 6	Ethics	Tom Sheeran
12/14 (Friday II) am/pm		Philadelphia Behavioral Health System Overview	Laura DeRiggi
12/14 (Friday II) am/pm		Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Jack Toomey Mimi Wong
1/7 am/pm	1 & 2	DSM	Monica Campbell
1/7 am/pm	1 & 2	Dual Dx	Caryn Wetcher
1/11 (Friday II) am/pm		Family & Consumer MH Perspectives	Vivian Spiese Kathy Cantwell Maggie Hackman
1/11 (Friday II) am/pm		Meds 1	Craig Strickland
1/14 am/pm	3 & 4	Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Jack Toomey Mimi Wong
1/14 am/pm	3 & 4	Meds 2	Craig Strickland

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1/18 (Friday II) am/pm		Suicide Assessment & Interventions	Tom Sheeran
1/18 (Friday II) am/pm		Ethics	Tom Sheeran
1/28 am/pm	5 & 6	Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Jack Toomey Mimi Wong
1/28 am/pm	5 & 6	Dual Dx	Caryn Wetcher
2/8 (Friday II) am/pm		Meds 2	Craig Strickland
2/8 (Friday II) am/pm		Final Session: Certificate Presentation; Lonker Group Feedback	Valerie Ferri Susan
2/11 am/pm	1 & 2	Meds 2	Craig Strickland
2/11 am/pm	1 & 2	Final Session: Certificate Presentation; Lonker Group Feedback	Valerie Ferri Susan
2/25 am/pm	3 & 4	Dual Dx	Caryn Wetcher
2/25 am/pm	3 & 4	Final Session: Certificate Presentation; Lonker Group Feedback	Valerie Ferri Susan
3/11 am/pm	5 & 6	Meds 2	Craig Strickland
3/11 am/pm	5 & 6	Final Session:	Valerie Ferri

PHILADELPHIA CONNECTIONS

Certificate Presentation

Susan Lonker

3/25 am

Everyone

Career Day Program

3/25 pm

Behavioral Health Job Fair
