

March 16, 2020

Dear Students and Faculty in the School Psychology Program,

### Non-Rutgers Practicum and Externships:

Please see this [document](#) that was sent to non-GSAPP, non-Rutgers externship and practicum supervisors on 3/15/20 regarding our decision to suspend training at these sites until 4/3/20. Please continue to reach out directly to Jeff Segal with questions regarding practicum/externship and contact your supervisors directly to confirm they are aware of the decision. Keep in mind that they are likely overwhelmed and backlogged with managing Covid-19 and response times may be slower.

### Rutgers-Affiliated Sites (Specialty clinics, etc.)

For now these remain open, however, please check your email frequently, as the Executive team is making plans for telehealth options.

### Internships

Follow the lead of the site for the time being. For those of you in schools, that means most, if not all of your schools will be closed soon. Keep in mind that interns at APPIC sites have contracts with these sites through APPIC. We can do our best to advocate for you but Rutgers rules do not apply to APPIC sites. The Executive Team is meeting today to discuss options, more to come on this. Please contact Pat Connelley with questions regarding internship.

### Accruing Clinical Hours and Working Remotely

We know students are concerned about being able to complete the required clinical hours. Our professional organizations (APA, NASP) are working effortfully to propose some recommendations for students and sites, so please stay tuned. Professional organizations have also acknowledged the need for flexibility as this situation unfolds. GSAPP is working on a policy related to remote work. Please stay tuned, but be patient as the most urgent issue and top priority for GSAPP is public health decisions and closures of sites. I promise we will get to the required hours in the days to come.

### Coursework

Instructors are working tirelessly to prepare for an engaging, stimulating, and rigorous online learning experience for our amazing graduate students. Faculty agree that it is crucial that we continue to deliver pedagogically rich instruction and ensure we meet our course objectives regardless of the format. Instructors will send an email to students prior to 3/23 with any additional instructions required for the start of classes on 3/23.

### Research

Please communicate directly with faculty mentors/Principal Investigators with questions regarding research-related work each lab will manage this independently given schools are closing for the next several weeks.

### Dissertation Proposals/Defenses

Work with your chairs and use remote platforms (WebEx, Skype, etc.) so that scheduled defenses occur as planned. We did this last week and it was extremely effective. Folks should be proposing and defending as planned/scheduled unless they are sick, in which case we can make a plan B.

### Mental Health/Self Care

Find time to disconnect from the news and breathe during this stressful time. Go outside, enjoy the nice weather, take walks, stay connected with each other even though we have to be physically distant for the time being. We are all juggling a lot and in multiple roles as caregivers, parents, faculty, students, during an unprecedented situation.

Please continue to follow the general guidelines provided in the email from the President's office (<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/>) and GSAPP's webpage as well <https://gsapp.rutgers.edu/gsapp-guidelines-for-covid-19/gsapp-operations-remote-learning>.

Best,

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Associate Professor

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