

Policy on Employment at an Agency as Pre-degree Trainee

Adopted May 2019

Your fieldwork placement (sometimes unofficially called an internship) is attached to your coursework at SJSU and is performed for course credit. While some fieldwork placements have stipends or other financial awards attached to them, students, as trainees, are **not** considered employees of the agency where they have their fieldwork placement.

Although students are sometimes offered employment while they are trainees (sometimes in the first semester of their placement), the clinical faculty have observed that students who become employed while on placement can have serious challenges with completing the program. This is due largely to the number of client hours and other demands placed on the employee versus those limited by the status of trainee.

We strongly encourage any student considering becoming an employee while pre-degree as a trainee speak with the director of the program before agreeing to that contract.

The clinical faculty understand the importance and value of being paid for one's services, but the increase in workload can sometimes make it impossible for students to complete program requirements and graduate from the program.

Above all, we want students to succeed in the program, to become well trained clinicians, and to complete all program requirements to successfully graduate.