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| **Text  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Volunteer opportunity for undergraduate psychology majors & psychology MA students:**QCPC PATIENT SIMULATION PROGRAM**Description & Application- Spring 2023 |

Queens College Psychological Center (QCPC) is seeking a few creative, mature, reliable, and motivated Undergraduate or Master’s level students in psychology, specifically interested mental health interventions (psychotherapy), to volunteer at the clinic and participate in the clinic’s “Patient Simulation Program” (PSP). In this program, students are trained to simulate through role-playing, in a consistent, well researched, standardized manner, clients in a mental health situation. These patient simulations are used for clinical psychology doctoral students to practice interviewing, intervention (psychotherapy), and assessment (psychological testing) skills. At the same time, they allow the PSP students themselves, to learn about psychotherapy and psychodiagnostics; and explore careers in the mental health professions.

PSP students will strive to portray a personal history, psychological symptoms, emotional characteristics, and everyday concerns of clients of many ages, from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, with mental health problems (e.g., depression and anxiety) for use in clinical exercises. Most commonly, they will participate in simulations of clinical interviewing, psychoeducational and skills aspects of interventions (e.g., being taught progressive relaxation) or standardized psychological testing (e.g., portraying a pediatric client with ADHD behaviors). All case material, verbalizations, and behavior portrayed by the PSP student is scripted material and is never, under any circumstance based on themselves or any real patient.

PSP Students are required to participate in a weekly supervised training group where they will learn about mental disorders, diagnoses, psychotherapy, and the mental health professions. In this training group, they will also watch relevant educational training videos, discuss readings, and practice their role-playing such as to realistically convey their assigned cases in the exercises. They will also work on learning how to effectively simulate case material, how to reliably stay in role, and will have the opportunity to reflect on and process their experiences in PSP. Certain exercises will require the PSP Students to provide feedback during the exercise and they will be trained on this as well. The simulation exercises will take place at Queens Hall on the Queens College Campus on Tuesdays @ 2:00- 3:30. The weekly supervision group (time and day to be determined) to prepare for the simulations may be on zoom.

It should be noted, that even though these exercises are simulated, they are nevertheless also confidential, and as such PSP students will not be permitted to share this material. Additionally, all the exercises are screened to ensure that they would not be distressing in any way to the PSP Student, but there is exposure (although only simulated) to information regarding serious mental disorders and difficult psychosocial circumstances as part of the scripts. Although likely a rare circumstance, if a student were to have any cause for concern, they would always be entitled to stop participation during any exercise.

Prior participants have reported that they learned tremendously about psychology and mental health; that the program was extremely valuable in helping them to understanding the mental health professionals; and that it was very personally rewarding. They also said that it required responsibility and hard work to do it well.

Qualifications: Students' qualifications for acceptance as a PSP Student volunteer is based on the criteria below:

* Students are required to be an undergraduate Psychology major with at least 12 credits completed in psychology; or a Master’s level student in Psychology (any area).
* Due to the limited number of positions, preference will be given to juniors and seniors. Freshmen and sophomores are welcome to apply and may be awarded a position if available.
* Students are required to have a Psychology GPA of at least 3.0.
* For the PSP Program, students must be available on Tuesdays 2:00 to 3:30 for the Spring 2023 semester.
* Students are required to meet with the director for an interview to discuss their interest in volunteering.

Application Procedure: To apply for this position at QCPC, please complete and email the “QCPC Application for Volunteer Position” below. (Also available on the Department of Psychology website) and a letter of reference to Dr. Caro at yvette.caro@qc.cuny.edu Please note on the subject line “PSP APP 23”. (You may submit your application before your letter of reference is available.) We encourage students from diverse backgrounds to apply.

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| **QCPC PATIENT SIMULATION PROGRAM APPLICATION - Spring 2023** |
| Last Name**:** |  |
| First Name**:** |  |
| Date of Application: |  |
| Local Address: |  |
| Cell Phone: | Alternate Phone: |
| Permanent Email Address: |  |
| QC Email Address: |  |
| QC Student Status You must be a QC student to participate in the QCPC Volunteer Program | [ ]  Undergraduate 🡪 [ ]  Freshman [ ]  Sophomore [ ]  Junior [ ]  Senior  [ ]  Other- specify: 🡪 [ ]  Graduate- specify program and year in program: 🡪 [ ]  Other- specify: 🡪  |
| Major: |  |
| Which Psychology Courses have you taken or are currently enrolled in. (List only if you received a grade of C or higher or are currently enrolled in the course) |  |
| GPA: | Current GPA: Current Psychology GPA:  |

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| Previous volunteer or paid experience (include key responsibilities). You may attach a resume instead. | [ ]  Please see attached resume 🡪 |
| Why are you interested in participating in the Patient Simulation Program @ QCPC? |  |
| Brief Personal Statement: Answer this question as if someone had asked you, “tell me something about yourself.” |  |

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| Special skills, talents, or interests. | [ ]  Fluent in a Foreign Language(s) specify (read, write, speak): [ ]  Graphic design [ ]  Videography [ ]  IT/Computer Skills [ ]  Web Design[ ]  Other: 🡪 |

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| For the Spring 2023 semester:Are you available on Tuesdays 2:00- 3:30 (required)? [ ]  -Yes[ ]  -NoAre there other times that you are possibly available?       |

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| How did you hear about our PSP program**:** |  |
| Additional Comments: |  |
| Letter of Reference (You can send in your application before your letter)Please have it sent directly to: yvette.caro@qc.cuny.edu | Who will your of reference come from: Name:      Relationship to you: [ ]  Professor [ ]  Work Supervisor [ ]  Other: 🡪      |
| **Please review these important details regarding volunteering at QCPC in the Patient Simulation Program:** Volunteers provide highly important services at QCPC and are depended upon to reliably carry out their responsibilities to ensure the highest quality of services for our patients. As such, volunteers are expected to:* Be interested in mental health/psychology, responsible, eager to learn, open minded, sensitive and flexible.
* Commit to at the designated hours and attend punctually and regularly during the spring semester. Give ample notice of planned absences and contact the clinic Director as soon as possible in regard to an emergency absence. Dress in a manner appropriate to the setting.
* Maintain confidentiality.
	+ - Confidentiality is of the utmost importance and is critical to preserving the dignity and welfare of our patients. All information (verbal, written, or computerized) concerning clients and their families, is to be held in the strictest confidence and discussed only among those involved in providing assistance. Because of the significance of confidentiality, all volunteers are required to sign a confidentiality agreement, and, compliance with that agreement is a condition of the volunteer's participation at QCPC. Information about confidentiality and its importance for QCPC volunteers will be included in the volunteer training program. A copy of the signed confidentiality agreement will be kept on file.
		- Even though exercises in the PSP program are simulated, they are nevertheless also confidential, and as such PSP students will not be permitted to share this material.
* If applicable: understand that a volunteer will need to have accrued a minimum of 35 volunteer hours in order for the Director to provide a letter of reference (for graduate school/other applications). This such, that letters can meaningfully reflect the volunteers experience, aptitudes and performance at the clinic.
* Additionally, Student should be aware that all the exercises are screened to ensure that they would not be distressing in any way to a PSP Student, but there is exposure (although only simulated) to information regarding serious mental disorders and difficult psychosocial circumstances as part of the scripts.  Although likely a rare circumstance, if a student were to have any cause for concern, they would always be entitled to stop participation during any exercise.
* Volunteer input regarding the development of volunteer policies and general clinic procedures and activities is encouraged and valued. All policies and guidelines pertaining to volunteers are documented and clearly communicated to volunteers and staff. Volunteers are treated respectfully and encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to grow and learn from their experiences at QCPC.
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| Please contact us with any questions you may have. I have read the material noted above and my signature below indicates understanding and agreement with all the terms described. Signature (if completed electronically type in name)Please send to this applicationdirectly to: yvette.caro@qc.cuny.edu with subject line “PSP APP 23” (You may send in your application before your letter of reference.)Thank you for your interest! |