Statement to Applicants regarding USU CAPS Response to Covid  
October 2020

- USU CAPS, and USU as an organization, has taken the safety and well-being of our employees and trainees extremely seriously during this pandemic.
- Utah State University was recently written up as one of the “Top 10 Colleges Deserving Recognition for their Response to Covid-19.” See article here: https://www.collegemagazine.com/10-universities-deserving-recognition-response-pandemic/
- USU administration has been diligent to build, maintain, and adapt the University-wide Covid-19 response plan and this has led to positive results in terms of maintaining safe campus spaces.
- USU CAPS has a strong Covid-19 protocol that we began following in March 2020 and continued to refine and adapt over the summer. A copy of the USU CAPS safety response plan is attached to this document.
- Currently, all employees at USU CAPS have the choice of working remotely from home, working in the office, or choosing a hybrid between the two. For the 2020-2021 internship cohort, two interns have selected to work remotely full-time and one intern has selected to work in-person full-time.
- For the time being, USU CAPS is not providing any in-person services. However, we have adapted all aspects of our clinical services to a Zoom format. We continue to provide initial consult, single session, crisis, priority consult, individual therapy, group therapy, and assessment via zoom. Interns have not experienced a delay in accumulating Direct Service hours.
- For the time being, USU CAPS is not providing any in-person group training. All internship supervision, seminars, case conferences, and staff meetings are held via Zoom. An exception to this was orientation. All three interns for the Fall 2020 cohort were given the opportunity to attend orientation (first three weeks in August) face-to-face or via Zoom and all three elected to attend face-to-face. As long as mask wearing and social distancing can be maintained, they all agreed that getting their initial training face to face would be critical to them and they had a very positive experience meeting staff members and learning about policies and procedures in the face-to-face format.
- We feel it is important to help interns feel connected to the staff and to have an opportunity to get to know potential supervisors. Interns in the Fall 2020 cohort had several opportunities to meet the entire staff in-person in an outdoor format where we were socially distanced and wearing masks.
- At this time, the Fall 2020 cohort are all on a trajectory to be able to meet the 500 Direct Contact hours, 2000 internship hours, and 10 full-battery assessments and reports this year. Given the circumstances of the pandemic, we will be flexible if circumstances change and interns have limited access to these service opportunities.
- Interviews for the 2021-2022 internship year will take place via Zoom in January 2021.
- Intern applicants will have an opportunity to speak candidly to one of our current interns during the interview process. We encourage you to ask them about their experiences on internship at USU CAPS during a pandemic.