

# Psychiatric Technology Program

Developmental Disabilities

Medical-Surgical Nursing

Mental Disorders

# What does the psych-tech do?

- The P.T. helps, treats, works with, and takes direct care of, and direct charge of clients with:
  - Emotional illness,
  - Mental illness,
  - Physical illness, and
  - Developmental disabilities

# In a Health Care Setting, The Psych Tech Supervises & Assists Clients In The Areas of:

- Eating
- Sleeping
- Personal hygiene
- Developing social relationships
- Developing skills to resolve conflicts with peers
- Developing job skills
- Assuming responsibility for work
- Finding appropriate leisure & recreation

# The Psych Tech Must have knowledge of:

- First Aid
- C.P.R.
- Nursing Process
- Communication
- Behavior modification: observing & changing behavior using rewards & punishments; time-out, ignoring.
- Genetic & metabolic disorders: Prader-Willi, Down syndrome.
- Prenatal & postnatal causes of mental retardation: from exposure to alcohol, illness.
- Neurological disorders – autism, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, seizures

# The Psych Tech must have knowledge of:

- Pharmacology (drugs & calculation of drug dosages).
- Nutrition
- Eating and feeding disorders.
- Growth & development
- Drug abuse & alcoholism
- Anxiety disorders: phobias
- Mood disorders: bipolar, depression.
- Schizophrenia
- Personality disorders
- Human sexuality
- Individual therapies
- Group therapies

# The Psych Tech must have knowledge of:

- Diseases & treatments of these systems:
- Cardiovascular
- Blood & blood vessels
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Urinary
- Eye, nose, ear & throat
- Endocrine
- Reproductive
- Musculoskeletal
- Skin
- Childhood
- Aging & elderly

# The Psych Tech is able to perform:

- Vital signs: B/P, pulse, temperature
- Bed bath & bed-making
- Feeding & toileting
- Medication administration
- Injections: insulin, TB skin test, IM
- Seizure management
- Wound care
- Care of:
  - Client confined to bed
  - Colostomy
  - Tracheostomy
- Insertion of:
  - Naso-gastric tube
  - Gastrostomy tube
  - Enemas
  - Urinary catheterization

# About the Program

- 12 months long: 3 semesters.
- Enrollment:
  - August to August
  - January to December.
- Application Deadlines:
  - August class is Feb. 1
  - January class is Sept. 1
- 20-30 students per class on a first qualified basis.
- Fall & Spring – 18 Weeks
  - PSYTCH 084: 17 units.
  - PSYTCH 086: 17 units.
- Summer only – 10 Weeks
  - PSYTCH 085: 12 units
- May submit a completed application anytime.



# Application to the Program

- Application form may be found on-line or in the HLS office.
- Must include proof of high school graduation or GED.
- Unofficial transcripts from SBVC/CHC
- Official transcripts from all other US colleges.
- Foreign transcripts are to be evaluated. See Admissions or Counseling for more information.
- Include Assessments.
- Collect all information and submit application.
- May be submitted anytime.

# INSTRUCTION

## LECTURE

- In classrooms at SBVC
  - Mondays & Tuesdays
  - 5-6 1/2 hours per day

## CLINICAL

- At community sites:
  - Wed., Thurs., Fridays
  - 7-8 hours per day
  
- Total hours in training per week: 31-35 hours.

# Hospital sites for training:

- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.
- Canyon Springs Community Facility in Cathedral City.
- Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona.
- Vista Cove Care in Rialto.
- Patton State Hospital in Highland.
- VA Hospital in Loma Linda.

# Who Can Enter?

- Must be a U.S. citizen, have a student visa, or legal residency status.
- Must be 18 years of age.
- Must have High School certificate or G.E.D.
- Pre-requisite classes must be taken prior to entering program, with a grade of “C or better:
- Biology 155
- English 101 or higher.
- Psychology 100
- Math 095 or higher.

# Financial considerations:

- Estimated Cost of the program: \$ 3,700
- Books: \$ 500
- Uniforms (2 tunics, 2 pants, 1 pair of nursing shoes): \$ 200
- Equipment (stethoscope, scissors, watch): \$ 35
- Parking fee.
- Health fee
- Malpractice insurance
- End of the program:
- Board exam fee: \$150
- Life Scan: \$ 67 Plus
- PT License \$300
- Save \$500 for End of Program

# What may prevent a candidate from becoming a psychiatric technician?

- The following crimes may prevent a candidate from becoming licensed and employed:
  - Crimes of violence
  - Child abuse
  - Spousal abuse
  - Elder abuse
  - Dependent abuse
  - Welfare Fraud
  - Stalking
  - Murder
  - Kidnapping
  - Hostage taking
  - False imprisonment
  - Drug crimes less than 5 years.
  - D.U.I.s less than 3 years.
  - Other felonies.

# Licensure

- To find employment as a Psychiatric Technician, the candidate upon completion of the program must successfully pass a licensing exam administered by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.
- Upon passing the exam, the candidate must apply for the license – cost \$ 300. (If employed by a State agency, the cost is reimbursed to the Psychiatric Technician).
- Every 2 years, the PT must complete 30 Continuing Education Units (C.E.U.s) and renew his/her license.

# What makes someone a good candidate?

- A good candidate is one who is honest & ethical;
- Enjoys working with people;
- Has good communication skills or is willing to develop these skills;
- Is open minded and open to learning new skills;
- Can work in different & sometimes difficult situations;
- Can manage stress in a healthy manner;
- Is hopeful and recognizes that human behavior is dynamic and can be changed.