

# Counseling, Social Work & School Psychology

## Graduate Level Internships at Souhegan High School

### Overview

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SAU 39 and Souhegan High School recognizes a responsibility for providing mentorship and internship experiences to those pursuing counseling and school psychology in the field of education. Graduate students gain practical experience in both content and pedagogy through their daily interactions in Souhegan High School's yearlong interdisciplinary and inclusionary learning environments. All requests for internships in the area of school counseling, social work and school psychology at the high school level will be reviewed for consideration.

#### **Goals:**

- To confirm university students are prepared to begin their intern experience in the field of school counseling, social work and/or school psychology.
- To meet and qualify the applicants who apply to be an intern at Souhegan High School to ensure that being an intern at Souhegan High School would be a good match and fit for all.
- To coordinate the opportunity for the graduate student to tour the school and notice the interactions that occur. To meet with administration and related professionals, gain a sense of the school culture and environment and address any questions or concerns.
- To ensure that the graduate students who are selected gain relevant hours and learning experiences through the internship experience
- To value the importance of having the two-way conversation regarding position expectations and the role that the interns have in the student outcomes of that day and the school year.

### Expectations & Responsibilities

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#### **The University will:**

- Specify requirements and expectations for the internship experience and the role of the graduate student, staff members and administrators involved.

#### **School Leadership will:**

- Provide an opportunity for the intern to observe all aspects of the role in a school environment.
- Arrange for multiple perspectives of understanding and not a solitary point of view.
- Provide mentorship opportunities to the selected interns to work with school counselors, social workers and school psychologist during the school year and provide regular feedback.
- Involve the intern in appropriate professional development opportunities.

#### **The Intern will:**

1. Complete the application process as required.
2. Be fully engaged and open to receiving feedback during the experience.
3. Respect school culture, norms and student/staff confidentiality.
4. Be allowed to substitute in SAU 39 in accordance with their school policy and/or guidelines.

# Application Process

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### Graduate Level Internship at Souhegan High School (SHS)

1. **Intern Applicants:** will be required to contact and provide the information below, expressing their goals and readiness, as part of the application process, to the Director of School Counseling:
  - a. SAU 39 employment application (attach link)
  - b. philosophy of school counselling, social work or school psychology
  - c. transcripts and course information
    1. *Unless there is an exceptional circumstance, SAU 39 will not accept an applicant with a grade point average below 3.0.*
    2. Submit and have passed all parts of Praxis I (general reading, writing and mathematics assessment) and Praxis II assessments (content area).

**No arrangements can be made exclusively between a graduate student and a counselor, social worker or school psychologist at SHS. All requests must be directed to:**

Karen Chininis  
Director of School Counseling  
Souhegan High School  
412 Boston Post Road  
Amherst, NH 03031  
603-673-9940 ext. 5313  
[kchininis@sprise.com](mailto:kchininis@sprise.com)

2. **Director of School Counseling:** Will determine if there is an opportunity available in the school that aligns with the graduate student's content area and grade level interests. If an opportunity is available:
  - a. An interview will be scheduled with the graduate student and members of the school team as applicable to the content area.
  - b. The administration will make a recommendation to accept / decline the request to complete an internship at Souhegan.
  - c. The building administrator will communicate with the school to confirm and arrange.
  - d. The graduate student must agree to follow the school calendar during the internship.
  - e. The graduate student must complete the fingerprinting and a background check process, in accordance with the state of NH.

**The Director of School Counseling will notify the graduate student, and Human Resources, of the outcome of the request for an internship.**

- a. **Human Resources:** Will provide the approved intern(s) with the required new hire paperwork including the criminal records background check release and fingerprint card.
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