



Behavioral Health Intern Center for Supportive Communities August 2025 – May 2026

Center for Supportive Communities (CSC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit in Lawrence, KS, is now accepting applications for our 2025-26 Behavioral Health Intern position. Are you an undergraduate or graduate student seeking real-world experiences that qualify for course credit or fulfill a service-learning or practicum/internship requirement? Become a Behavioral Health Intern with CSC's SupportEd program to enhance your clinical and professional skills while networking with the top human service and legal agencies in KS. Work 1-on-1 with K-12 students, provide advocacy and mentorship, develop and implement evidence-based interventions, and collaborate with families, schools, and human service and legal agencies. CSC's team of experts offer practical training, supervised experience in real-world settings, professional development and networking, and many opportunities to create positive and sustainable change.

CSC's Behavioral Health Intern position offers you an innovative and comprehensive learning experience customized to meet your interests and educational requirements. CSC encourages students from all backgrounds to apply. Ask a faculty member to sponsor your hours with CSC for course credit (e.g., [LA&S 490/EPsy 575: Internship Exploration](#) or [UNIV 492](#)).

Position Contact

info@supportivecommunities.org

Position Title

Behavioral Health Intern

Position Dates

August 2025 – May 2026

Time Requirements

You must dedicate 5, 10, 15, or 20 hours each week. Many of your weekly responsibilities (other than meetings with students) can be completed remotely and on your own time.

Position Location

Douglas County, KS (Lawrence, Eudora, Baldwin City, and Perry)

Position Responsibilities

- Maintain a caseload of 2-5 students
- Assist with intake and assessments
- Facilitate weekly 1.5-hour meetings per student
- Implement individualized evidence-based interventions
- Teach skills, provide academic support, and assist with problem-solving and goal setting
- Monitor weekly attendance, grades, and behavior
- Collaborate weekly with families and schools
- Serve as a liaison between families, schools, and the community
- Collaborate with mental health providers, child protective service workers, assistant district attorneys, and other allied health professionals
- Attend weekly and as-needed meetings with supervisors
- Complete weekly documentation and progress reports

- Present at truancy review hearings (if applicable)

Required Qualifications

- At least 18 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Good academic standing
- Valid driver's license and car insurance
- Reliable transportation to and from weekly meetings
- Strong interpersonal, communication, problem-solving, time management, and organizational skills
- Persistent in reaching out, patient in building trust, and consistent in communicating

Preferred Qualifications

- Proven experience working with children, families, and schools
- Background knowledge in a human-service field (e.g., applied behavior analysis, psychology, social work, social welfare, special education, or counseling) or juvenile law
- Cultural competence
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office

Benefits & Perks

- Course credit
- Tailored experiences that meet your interests, career goals, and educational requirements
- Flexible schedule that aligns with your academic calendar
- Networking with top human service and legal agencies
- Training in evidence-based best practices
- Direct clinical experience with children, youth, and families
- Career exploration and professional development
- Quality reference or letter of recommendation
- Mileage reimbursement
- Research opportunities (upon request)
- Website and social media recognition
- ...and more!

Application Process

1. Complete our online application here: <https://form.jotform.com/250154644351148>.
2. Complete an interview with CSC.
3. If selected, you must complete onboarding paperwork, a health assessment and TB test, a comprehensive background check, and pre-service online training and orientation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Center for Supportive Communities?

Center for Supportive Communities (CSC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit in Lawrence, KS, is a recognized leader in true, evidence-based, individualized support. CSC's mission is to use behavior science to create equal opportunities and meaningful change for children, families, and communities (e.g., education and legal systems, service providers). What makes us unique? We need to see success to believe it, and we aim for just that—observable change that promotes positive life outcomes.

Who is Center for Supportive Communities?

Kelsey Dachman, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, and Madison Graham, M.A., founded CSC to help ensure all children exceed their potential. Dr. Dachman is a licensed and board-certified behavior analyst specializing in the prevention and treatment of challenging behavior common for children and teens with a unique focus in supporting justice-involved families. She holds a Ph.D. in behavioral psychology and master's in applied behavior analysis from the University of Kansas' Department of Applied Behavioral Science. Madison holds a master's degree in applied behavior analysis and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in behavioral psychology and master's in public health administration at the University of Kansas. **Rock Chalk!** Directed by Dr. Dachman, CSC's comprehensive team includes behavior analysts, social workers, certified volunteer administrators, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, volunteers, and more!

What does Center for Supportive Communities do?

CSC specializes in restorative prevention and treatment strategies that strengthen systems and promote juvenile justice and community health. Services include consultation, behavior therapy, education and training, and community programming. SupportEd, CSC's flagship program, is an evidence-based community diversion program offered to K-12 students and families as a restorative alternative to court involvement for truancy. SupportEd uses 1-on-1 mentorship, advocacy, and individualized interventions to help K-12 students and families overcome barriers to school attendance. SupportEd helps to ensure every child has access to education.

SupportEd's History

SupportEd grew out of the University of Kansas' Department of Applied Behavioral Science where it successfully operated as an undergraduate practicum course for over 40 years under the direction of Jan Sheldon, Ph.D., J.D. Following Dr. Sheldon's retirement, her former students, Dr. Dachman and Ms. Graham, founded CSC to allow for the continued operation of SupportEd.

Why Focus on Truancy?

Truancy is a complex public health problem that requires a multitiered systemic approach grounded in evidence-based practices. First, truancy is a concrete and observable indicator that a child needs help. In most cases, truancy is just the tip of the iceberg, a symptom of underlying hardships like abuse, neglect, homelessness, bullying, social withdrawal, food insecurity, or youth violence. Second, truant children are at risk for negative life outcomes. When a child regularly misses school, they miss opportunities to develop essential life skills and positive relationships with caring adults and peers. This puts them at risk for social isolation, academic failure, drug and alcohol abuse, juvenile crime, school dropout, and adult unemployment and incarceration. Third, truancy is a legal issue that can pull children and families into the court system and subject them to punitive action. Ensuring all children receive a quality education is a critical first step toward breaking intergenerational cycles of school dropout, undereducation, violence, and incarceration.

What will my schedule look like as a Behavioral Health Intern?

Each week, you must facilitate a 1.5-hour meeting in the community with each student on your caseload and attend a 30-min meeting with our Truancy Officer and Case Manager. Meetings with students must occur after school at a time convenient for you and the family (typically, between 3:30 and 8:30). Meetings can occur on the weekends. Meetings with our Truancy Officer and Case Manager are scheduled during normal business hours at a time convenient for you. Supervision and feedback meetings will occur virtually or at a pre-determined location in the community. All other weekly requirements (e.g., counting attendance, emailing schools, speaking with parents, completing weekly documentation) can occur on your own time but must be done by 11:59 p.m. every Sunday. If your student requires a truancy review hearing (which not every student does), the hearing will be approximately 20 minutes through Zoom and will be scheduled on a Thursday any time between 3:30 and 5:00. We do our best to schedule hearings two weeks in advance. Additionally, you must attend a 60-min virtual meeting on the first Friday of every month and a 20-min virtual meeting at the end of each semester.

Where will I meet with K-12 students as a Behavioral Health Intern?

Student meetings occur at a public location (e.g., public library, university campus, public park, school classroom, coffee house) typically in the community where your student lives. You are prohibited from meeting in private locations such as your home or the student's home.

What training will I receive as a Behavioral Health Intern?

You must complete asynchronous online training modules, attend an in-person orientation, and pass a competency assessment before meeting with students. Training topics include compulsory education, truancy, counseling skills (e.g., active listening, summarizing, reflecting, paraphrasing, warmth and empathy, rapport building, effective communication, using questions, self-disclosure, stylistic behavior), mental health first aid, child and adolescent development, assessment methodologies, evidence-based behavioral interventions, ethics, mandated reporting, confidentiality, professional boundaries, safety, and crisis management. We also provide intermittent booster training and hands-on case-specific training.

Why should I choose Center for Supportive Communities?

With over 40 years of experience supporting advanced students and faculty, CSC's team of professionals is well-equipped to help you enhance your clinical, supervisory, and professional skills and increase your career readiness. We create unique and comprehensive learning experiences that meet your interests, career goals, and educational requirements. Through hands-on training and supervision working in multiple settings with a variety of professionals, you will build foundational skills that will make you a standout applicant for future job opportunities. Network with the top human service and legal agencies in KS while creating meaningful and sustainable systems-level change.

Who should apply for the Behavioral Health Intern position?

We encourage students and professionals from all backgrounds to apply. This includes, but is not limited to, students studying applied behavioral science, psychology, child life, social work, general and special education, law, community health, health sciences, public health and policy, communications, nursing, etc. The invaluable skills you will gain from this experience are applicable across fields and career paths.