Adult Probation and Parole: District #12 (Staunton)

Placement Description
Interns will work under the direction of Probation/Parole Officers, and assist with the supervision of offenders placed on probation/parole.

Intern or Field Placement Responsibilities/Opportunities
- Court Observations
- Work with offenders and their families
- Home visits
- Employment contacts
- Observe interviews
- Assist with reports and paperwork

Contact Information
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Read about students’ experiences at this site below:
The Staunton Probation and Parole Office’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Commonwealth and public safety. They do this through providing supervision and control, having effective programs and reentry services, and fostering positive change using evidence based practices.

My experience there involved a lot because I tried to make the most of it. I was able to help supervise a low risk level caseload through which I conducted my own appointments. I shadowed officers in appointments, court, home visits, and orientation. I was able to sit in with the sex offender peer group and learn about what that includes. A lot of what I did was make appointments for the caseload and home visits and to conduct the actual appointments. I also learned to take drug screens, fingerprint, and went through metal detector training. I got to participate in the staff meetings once a month as well.

This site is fantastic if you are interested in conflict management, criminal justice, or high risk populations. At first I did not think that I would want to be an intern here but after my interview and experiencing the atmosphere I knew it was a good fit! My advice would be that if you feel like you aren’t getting enough work or experience, then ask for more. The workers at the site are extremely helpful and friendly and want to make your internship experience as educational and useful to you as possible. This site will push you out of your comfort zone, but that is why you should want to be there. My supervisor never made me do things I was uncomfortable with and was always there to answer questions. I think everyone agrees that drug test are not very fun but they are a new skill and it is different. My favorite part was feeling like my contribution project was actually helpful. Work with your supervisor and be observant to determine something that you could contribute to the office; this makes the whole process so enjoyable.

Through my internship I learned more about evidence based practices and the important role that probation officers have in the community. It inspired me to work with high risk populations and to continue helping others. My time was so influential that I have applied for a job opening in their office. For incoming students looking at internships, if this site at all interests you, definitely try and get an interview and get a feel for it. You might find a hidden gem of an experience!