

# Project BLENDS FAQs for MS Clinical Psychology Students



Department of Psychology  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

## What is Project BLENDS?

Project BLENDS: *Building Capacity for Interdisciplinary Collaboration among Alaska-based Related Service Providers* is an interdisciplinary, advanced training program designed to prepare graduates in four related service disciplines to work collaboratively to support infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children with disabilities and their families.

## When do I apply to Project BLENDS?

You apply for Project BLENDS in the fall of your first year of the full-time program. If you are part-time, you apply in the fall of your last year in the program.

## When do I participate in Project BLENDS?

Full-time MS Clinical Psychology students complete Project BLENDS in the summer, fall, and spring semesters of their second year of the MS Clinical Psychology program. Part-time MS Clinical Psychology students complete Project BLENDS in the summer, fall, and spring semesters of their final year of the MS Clinical Psychology program.

## Are there courses I need to take prior to participating in Project BLENDS?

Yes. You must take PSY 611, PSY 622 and PSY 623 in the fall of your first year so that you can enroll in Practicum in the summer or fall of your second year.

## What is the time commitment for Project BLENDS?

At the end of your first year, you will attend a full day orientation meeting in May. In the summer semester, you complete 15 hours of field-based observation with two supervision meetings, and a 3-credit course (PSY/SWK 620: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health). In the fall and spring semesters, you complete a 1-credit seminar. The seminar is coordinated so that it does not interfere with your required MS courses.

## What are the conference requirements and how are they paid for?

As part of Project BLENDS, you are required to attend the Division for Early Childhood Conference which occurs in September or November of each year, and one day of the Alaska Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Institute which occurs in the spring of each year. The grant covers 100% of costs associated with travel and registration for both conferences.

## How and when are the financial supports disbursed?

You will receive a total of \$18,750.00 that is dispersed through both the Office of Financial Aid and the Business Office. Funding to cover the required 5-credits of BLENDS coursework is dispersed through the Office of Financial Aid. The remaining amount is dispersed between August, December, and May through the Business Office which is deposited directly into your linked bank account.

## How does my MS practicum and internship align with Project BLENDS?

MS Clinical Psychology students participate in Project BLENDS while they are completing their practicum and internship requirements. You should plan to complete your practicum in the summer or fall of the year you participate in BLENDS and plan to start your internship in the spring of your last year. As part of Project BLENDS, Project BLENDS scholars work with the MS Clinical Psychology Internship Coordinator and the Project BLENDS Director to identify an internship placement that provides services to infants, toddlers, or preschoolers with disabilities or who are at-risk for disabilities and their families. Project BLENDS does not require additional practicum or internship hours beyond the hours required for the MS Clinical Psychology program.

## What are examples of clinical placements for MS students in Project BLENDS?

Programs for Infants and Children (PIC)  
School District Preschool Programs  
AK Child and Family  
Alaska Behavioral Health  
Southcentral Foundation

## Can I participate in Project BLENDS and other student opportunities?

MS Clinical Psychology Project BLENDS scholars may simultaneously complete the Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health. MS Clinical Psychology Project BLENDS scholars may also participate in AHEC and LEND, but not during the same year. Please discuss these other advanced training opportunities with your program advisor and Project BLENDS faculty mentor.

## What is my commitment after I graduate?

To enroll in Project BLENDS you are required to sign a Service Agreement, as stipulated by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSEP), that indicates you agree to work for an equivalent of 2-years (can include ½ time employment) in a position which services infants, toddlers, or children (birth through age 8) with disabilities for at least 51% of the time or 51% of your caseload. This can also include indirect services (program development, administration, technical assistance, research, policy) in which at least 51% of your time is work related to the training.

**For more information, contact the Project Director, Dr. Hattie Harvey – [haharvey@alaska.edu](mailto:haharvey@alaska.edu) or visit the project website, [www.uaa.alaska.edu/project-blends](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/project-blends)**

