The School-Based Mental Health Program (SBMHP) is an outpatient mental health service that is part of the Department of Pediatric Psychiatry in Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian. SBMHP works in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education and state and city public mental health authorities to provide school-based mental health services in public schools throughout Northern Manhattan, currently serving 11 elementary school and 3 middle school sites. The School-Based Mental Health Program provides on-site clinical, psychiatric, case management, and school consultation services to children from Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade and their families. Patients have a variety of externalizing and internalizing disorders. The majority of families are bi-cultural and bilingual (Spanish/English).

Externs will provide individual therapy, family therapy, parenting support, group therapy, school consultation, diagnostic evaluations, neuropsychological testing, and linkage to appropriate community-based services. Most services are provided on-site at the school with the exception of neuropsychological testing, which will take place at the hospital with the Promise Program. The extern is expected to carry approximately 4-5 individual therapy cases, co-lead at least one group in the summer and at least one group during the school year with their supervisor or another staff member, and complete at least 1-2 partial or full neuropsychological evaluations over the course of the year. Externs will also complete 3-4 initial diagnostic evaluations over the year.

Externs will be supervised by New York State Licensed Psychologists and Board Certified Child Psychiatrists. A supervisor will be on-site at all times when externs are seeing patients, and an attending psychiatrist will be available by phone. Supervision will be broken down accordingly: one hour per week with their primary clinical supervisor regarding evaluation and therapy cases; one hour per week with their Promise Program supervisor regarding neuropsychological testing cases; and one and a half hours per week of group supervision in multidisciplinary team meetings. Additional supervision will be provided as needed. Externs will attend a one and a half hour biweekly didactic seminar with other externs. Bilingual (Spanish-speaking) trainees are also invited to attend a weekly seminar focused on supporting bilingual trainees in their professional development and helping them to develop cultural and linguistic competence in providing clinical services to Spanish-speaking populations. Externs also have the opportunity to attend weekly Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Grand Rounds presentations at the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

The externship will run from July 1st through the end of June. Externs are expected to complete 16 hours per week, which can be scheduled over 2 days (or 3 days with DCT permission). Wednesday is a strongly recommended day for externs to be on-site at the hospital to attend multidisciplinary team meetings and didactics. Doctoral candidates must be enrolled in at least their 3rd year in an APA-accredited clinical or school psychology program, have prior therapy and assessment experience with children, and have a working knowledge of the DSM-V. Fluency in Spanish is preferred, but not required. To apply, please upload a letter of interest, CV, DCT letter of readiness, two letters of recommendation, and a sample testing report to the NYNJADOT externship portal at https://nynjadot.apa.org following the NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS externship guidelines.