



Behavioral Health Support Specialist Clinical Training Program

Increasing Access to Evidence-based Behavioral Health Interventions in Washington State

Background

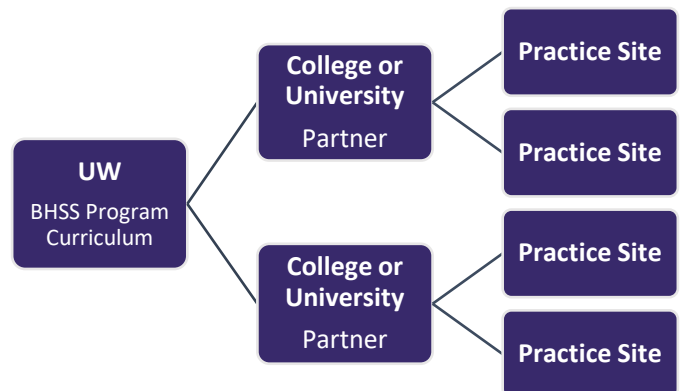
The University of Washington (UW) Department of Psychiatry is leading the development of the Behavioral Health Support Specialist (BHSS) clinical training program with funding from the Ballmer Group. This one-year training program can be an add-on as part of bachelor’s degree program or as a standalone continuing education certificate. The BHSS program is based on the successful [Improving Access to Psychological Therapies \(IAPT\) Program](#) for adults in the United Kingdom.

Program training covers:

- Evidenced-based behavioral health intervention skills for treating common mental health conditions like depression and anxiety
- Regular outcomes focused supervision to ensure providers continuously improve and deliver high quality care
- Population health monitoring skills where providers routinely monitor patient outcomes and refer to higher levels of care if a patient is not improving

Program Development & Opportunities

The University of Washington Department of Psychiatry will develop the BHSS program core curriculum and training approach and then partner with any four-year degree program in Washington State to offer the curriculum.



The below are areas currently underway as well as areas we are seeking partnership.

Work In Progress

<i>Clinical Skills & Training</i>	<i>Delivery of Service</i>	<i>Licensure and Payment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-requisite in health field • Core curriculum • Practicum & skills development • Faculty development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define job description • Develop funding models for BHSS position • Develop practice supervision models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need RCW legislation • Need DOH rule making • Ensure billing codes available to cover services

Partnership Opportunities

<i>Clinical Skills & Training</i>	<i>Delivery of Service</i>	<i>Licensure and Payment</i>
Need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges & universities • Continuing education programs • Programs for practicum sites 	Need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for employment • Partners for supervisor development 	Need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative champions • To explore opportunities for ensuring reimbursement

Interested? Reach out to:

Bill O'Connell, Ed.D., LMHC, NCC woconn@uw.edu
 Juliann Salisbury, MSW salisj2@uw.edu
 Anna Ratzliff, MD, PhD annar22@uw.edu