



**MOMENTOUS
INSTITUTE**

Est. by Salesmanship Club of Dallas

**Doctoral Level Psychology
Practicum Training Program**

Updated 2025

About Momentous Institute

Momentous Institute, established by Salesmanship Club of Dallas, works side by side with children, families and communities to build and repair social emotional health through education, Mental Health Services, research and training so all children can achieve their full potential. At Momentous Institute, we believe mental health and education go hand in hand. Founded in 1920, we work at the heart of education and mental health to help children and families live healthier, more fulfilled lives. Every year, we work with thousands of young people to provide mental health and education services to build better futures for our communities and shape a world of emotionally thriving people who reach their full potential.

As the only Dallas nonprofit offering mental health services and operating an elementary school, Momentous Institute offers a unique synergy between education and mental health that no other school, curriculum, counseling, or professional training program offers. Each year, our research demonstrates that within safe relationships, strong social emotional health can develop through: A focus on building existing strengths of the child, family, and community; Meaningful parent engagement and education; and Brain-based and trauma-informed practices. We define **Social emotional health as the ability to understand and manage one's emotions, reactions and relationships**. Children with strong social emotional health demonstrate self-control, communicate well, problem solve, are empathetic, respectful, grateful, and optimistic — traits we admire in the people with whom we want to work and maintain friendships.

We believe all children deserve equitable opportunities to achieve their full potential and that with strong social emotional health, every child, no matter their circumstances, can change the trajectory of their lives. One of the main pathways to building and repairing a child's social emotional health — a key predictor for academic achievement and long-term success — starts with a safe, supportive relationship with a caring adult. By strengthening family bonds, caregivers gain confidence and become their child's strongest advocate. Problems and solutions are viewed as interactional and contextual, requiring shifts in the system so each person's view can be understood and acknowledged.

Momentous Institute seeks to accomplish our mission through Mental Health Services, Education, Training and Research. Our commitment to change the odds for children guides each interaction we have — we directly serve over 3000 children and family members through our nationally acclaimed **Momentous School** serving ages 3 years old through 5th grade, and strengths-based Mental Health Services, tailored to the specific needs of each child and family situation. We also prioritize research — following our students' long-term trajectory and tracking improvements in the mental health of our therapy clients and parent education participants. We also conduct evaluation studies of our intensive trainings and innovative approaches to learn, grow and share proven practices and strategies that best achieve strong social emotional health for children.

The Families We Serve: The Momentous Institute programs are available to children and families from the greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. While we do provide telehealth services, we also have families that travel from other counties. Each year our Mental Health Services team provides services to more than 2,000 people. The organization has established a trusting relationship with the Latinx community and the majority of clients with whom we partner are from diverse Latinx backgrounds. In 2023, approximately 80% of clients identify their ethnicity as Hispanic. The race diversity of the client population in Mental Health Services was as follows: White (79.68%); Black/African American (11.12%), Asian/Asian Americans (1.23%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (1.93%) and other (6.04%). Our median clients' income was \$35,000 per year.

For more information about the impact of our services, please visit our website:

<https://momentousinstitute.org/our-impact>

The Services We Provide: Momentous Institute offers children and their families services through two distinct departments: ***Mental Health Services*** and ***Education***.

The practicum is housed in the Mental Health Services department. Through this department, Momentous Institute provides therapy, psychological testing, parent education, and other mental health and social services to children and families. Given our systemic approach, Trainees have the opportunity to work with the full family and are provided flexibility in determining whether individual, family, or a conjoint individual/family modality will best serve the family.

Mental Health Services are primarily offered through eight areas of direct service: 1) **Therapy**, including play, individual, family, and group modalities, 2) **Huddle Up**, a therapeutic afterschool and in-school program serving youth ages 11 to 15 and their families, 3) **Forward Thinkers**, an experiential and processed based therapeutic group for children ages 7 to 10 and their caregivers, 4) **Launch**, an early childhood therapeutic program that serves children, ages 3-6 years, with major emotional dysregulation, 6) **Psychological Assessment**, with children at the Momentous School, 7) **Parent Education** classes, and 8) **Psychiatric Services**, from a pediatric psychiatric nurse practitioner and a collaborative, integrated health framework.

Momentous Institute is one of the few organizations that works at the intersection of education and mental health. The Education department of the organization is primarily comprised of the Momentous School. Founded in 1997, Momentous School is a unique Dallas laboratory school, where students are engaged with a rigorous academic curriculum, woven with rich social emotional health experiences— a key predictor for a child's academic achievement and lifelong success. Our program is underscored by deep parent engagement, as students thrive when they can be recognized and celebrated both at school and at home. Through our division of Education, we're building momentum and hoping to create a shift in our community. Our focus on strong, healthy relationships extends into education.

Our programs are available to clients from the greater Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. In 2021 and 2022, Momentous Institute provided services to over 3,000 people through Mental Health Services and education. Given the large percentage of Latino families served by our organization, we are proud to provide most of our Mental Health Services in English and Spanish.

Our Facilities: We have two locations that house our mental health services.

The **Meadows Family Center is located in North Oak Cliff at 106 E. 10th Street; Dallas, TX 75203** (often referred to by staff as Oak Cliff or OC). The Oak Cliff location also houses the Momentous School, which is open during the school year from August thru June.

The Constantin Center is located in North Dallas at 9705 Harry Hines Blvd; Dallas, TX 75220 (often referred to by staff as Harry Hines or HH)

OC & HH Locations	Front Desk Coverage	Open Hours
Monday - Thursday	7:30 am – 7:30 pm	8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Friday	7:30 am – 4:00 pm	8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Additional Resources

Trainees are provided a variety of resources to ensure they are able to effectively complete their job responsibilities. Some of these resources include:

- **Office Space:** While conducting direct service activities, you will have a designated office space to work in. Practicum students often use staff offices when they are working from the Oak Cliff location.
- **Laptop Computer:** Trainees are also assigned to an Organization laptop to use during their Training year. The laptop can be used independently and also connected to a docking station in the Trainee's office to allow connection to the network drives. Each laptop is installed with Microsoft Windows and Office applications to manage schedules and access client information. Trainees also have the capability to access network drives off campus through a secure external network. Trainees meet with a member of the IT department during their first week at Momentous Institute. As stated in the acknowledgement form, Trainees are expected to review and adhere to the electronic communications and HIPAA policies described in the Momentous Institute Employee Handbook.
- **Individual Email and Voicemail:** Individual phone extensions with voicemail and Organization-based email accounts are established for each trainee.
- **Assessment Measures:** Momentous Institute has a wide array of psychological/educational/development assessment measures (see appendix) as well as computer scoring software for most assessment measures.
- **Training Resources:** A library of training resources (printed material and electronic) including books, DVDs, journal articles, and therapeutic games and workbooks. Additionally, both campuses have multiple training rooms with two-way mirrors. Additionally, Trainees can record in-person and virtual sessions from their laptop computers.
- **Additional Space for Services:** Each location is equipped with rooms set up for group and play therapy services. We also have outdoor spaces (playground, basketball court) and a dedicated sand tray room.
- **Security:** Each location requires a key or access card to enter most areas of the facility. Additionally, security is provided by both a private security firm and off-duty Dallas Police Officers during all operating hours at both campuses.

Clinical Opportunities

Therapy

Doctoral practicum students are expected to carry a caseload of 8-10 families.

The majority of practicum students' time is dedicated to providing therapeutic interventions. Therapy services at Momentous Institute may be provided in individual or family (multi-person) modalities. Typical client concerns can be broadly categorized as: 1) child and adolescent behavioral or emotional difficulties; 2) school related issues; 3) historical family violence and abuse (verbal, physical and sexual); 4) relationship counseling; 5) individual/family of origin issues; and 6) parent education. Length of treatment is not predetermined and is identified through conversations with the client and clinical supervisors. To help broaden the training experience, trainees are encouraged to diversify their caseload with consideration for diagnoses and cultural factors including ethnicity, age and gender. Trainees are also encouraged and provided with opportunities to collaborate with staff and supervisors as needed or based on clinical interests.

Psychological Assessment

Mental Health Services provides all of the psychological and psychoeducational assessments for our Momentous School students. Thus, there are opportunities throughout the training year to independently or collaboratively conduct comprehensive child assessments. Typical referral questions include specific learning disorders, ADHD, ASD, trauma, depression, and anxiety. Due to the population served by Momentous, our assessments are complex and generally involve differential diagnosing and consideration of contextual/cultural factors, especially regarding language. In addition to completing the administration of testing instruments, trainees are expected to share assessment results through both a written professional report and verbal feedback sessions with the family and the Momentous School.

Group Therapy

Trainees also have opportunities to co-facilitate therapeutic groups, pending the group's clinical needs. Trainees typically join one of our existing groups with a licensed clinician (Huddle Up, Forward Thinkers, Launch, Poderosas); however, there are opportunities for participating in Parent Education programming, conducting a brief, skills group at the Momentous School, or starting your own group.

Clinical Intakes

Momentous Institute has a well-established intake process for new clients to ensure they are connected to appropriate services and external resources based on their presenting concerns/symptoms. Intake appointments allow trainees to strengthen skills in clinical assessment, making referrals for psychiatric evaluations and other appropriate services, and also strengthen crisis intervention skills.

Evaluations

Doctoral trainees are expected to provide direct supervisors with the formal evaluation forms required by their doctoral programs at least 1 month prior to submission deadlines. Typically, programs require a formal evaluation each semester, which we will complete and discuss with trainees.

Supervision

Doctoral Practicum Trainees receive **1 hour of weekly supervision from a Licensed Psychologist** and **1 hour of weekly supervision from a Postdoctoral Fellow** (Provisionally Licensed Psychologist). Momentous affords opportunities for live supervision and co-therapy or co-assessment with supervisors. Additionally, all sessions are video- and audio-recorded for review during supervision. As we have a large staff with diverse areas of expertise, we also encourage collaboration and consultation with allied mental health professionals, including RPTs, LMFTs, LCSWs, and LPCs.

To enhance the training and supervision, trainees are required to record the majority of their sessions each week. Recording is discussed with all clients during their intake and during their initial session with trainees (supplemental informed consent for recording). Trainees should be prepared to view and discuss their recordings during supervision with their clinical supervisors.

Training

Each month trainees have opportunities to attend several clinical group conversations and consultation meetings to further support their overall clinical competency. These trainings are open to all staff and occur on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 – 12:00. Monthly, all clinical staff attend a group discussion to think aloud about a specific topic relevant to the clinical work with clients and/or to consult around a specific case. Additionally, trainees interested in learning about play therapy are invited to attend a monthly consultation group with one of the Organization's registered play therapists. Momentous also often hosts full-staff trainings throughout the year, which practicum students would be encouraged to participate in. Most recently these have included trainings on working with neurodivergent populations and Attachment-Based Family Therapy.

In addition to our full-staff training opportunities, doctoral practicum students are welcome to join the 1-hour weekly practicum seminar with our master's level practicum students. Further, there may be opportunities to participate in clinical seminars with our APA Trainees.

MHS TRAININGS/MEETINGS SCHEDULE		
Play Therapy Consultation Group	1 st Wednesday of the Month	10:00 – 12:00
Clinical Conversation	2 nd Wednesday of the Month	10:00 – 12:00
Integrated Health Grand Rounds	3 rd Wednesday of the Month	10:00 – 11:00
Spanish Consultation Group	3 rd Wednesday of the Month	12:00 – 1:00
Mental Health Services All-Staff Meeting	4 th Wednesday of the Month	10:00 – 12:00
Practicum Student Weekly Didactic	Weekly on Wednesday	2:00 – 3:00

Communication with Trainee's Graduate Program

Momentous Institute cooperates and coordinates with each Trainee's academic program as required/requested. The Training Director and/or Clinical Supervisor is responsible for communicating with each Trainee's graduate program when necessary. It is the Trainee's responsibility to communicate their academic program's requirements to the Training Director and their Clinical Supervisor at the start of the training year.

At any time, if a problem arises that requires remediation and brings into question the Trainee's ability to successfully complete their practicum year, the Training Director and Clinical Supervisor will inform said Trainee's academic DCT to not only inform them of the concerns, but to also collaborate to identify possible solutions to support the Trainee toward successful completion of their training.

Feedback to Supervisors

Momentous Institute strongly believes the supervision process is an important component of the training year. Our training program is dedicated to providing trainees with exemplary supervision experiences that foster growth and learning. Additionally, supervision is designed to cultivate an environment that helps trainees grow into their identity as psychologists. In the belief that supervision is a collaborative relationship, trainees will be encouraged to provide feedback about their supervision experiences throughout the year directly to their supervisors. They will also complete a formal supervisory feedback form at the end of each semester.

Practicum Requirements

The doctoral practicum is 1 year, typically beginning in late summer/early fall. Doctoral practicum trainees are expected to be on site a minimum of 20 hours per week with a clinical caseload of approximately 8-10 clients. Typically, these hours are split between 2-3 days during the week. Our offices are open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday-Thursday and 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Friday. Given the population we serve, trainees are generally on-site in the afternoons/evenings, as the majority of our clients come in afterschool.

Doctoral trainees are also expected to provide direct supervisors with the formal evaluation forms required by their doctoral programs at least 1 month prior to submission deadlines. Typically, programs require a formal evaluation each semester, which we will complete and discuss prior to submission to your program.

Practicum Application Procedures

Applicants interested in the doctoral practicum position at Momentous should meet the following requirements:

- Will be in at least their 3rd year of an APA-accredited doctoral program in Clinical, Counseling, or School Psychology while on practicum at Momentous
- Have completed at least 1 year of practicum experience working directly with clients
- Have practical experience administering assessments, especially cognitive and achievement measures
- Received formal education on child assessment measures, with preference for applicants who have experience administering assessments with children

Given the high proportion of Spanish speaking clients served at Momentous, we encourage applicants bilingual in English and Spanish to apply.

Deadline

The doctoral practicum position will remain open until filled. Typically, we begin receiving applications in early Spring and conduct in-person interviews throughout March-May. Practicum students generally begin their practicum in July/August and complete their training the following year in May/June.

Application Materials

All application materials should be submitted to Dr. Ashley Geerts-Perry via email at aperry@momentousinstitute.org

1. Letter of Interest
2. CV
3. Names and Contact Information of 3 references, preferably individuals who have supervised your clinical practicum
4. Optional: de-identified assessment report

Momentous Institute maintains a policy of non-discrimination for all employees and applicants in every facet of the organization's operations. Momentous Institutes hires, trains, and promotes all qualified employees without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, military status, disability, genetic information, gender identity, or sexual orientation. ***All trainees must pass a background check prior to beginning their practicum.***

Momentous Institute and the Salesmanship Club of Dallas are equal opportunity employers. It is the policy of both corporations that all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, training, promoting, transferring and terminating will be made without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, military status, disability, genetic information, gender identity, or sexual orientation.