

Fellowship Initiatives



The Prisoner Reentry Institute facilitates a range of fellowship programs, designed as mutually beneficial endeavors both for our student fellows and for the service organizations that host them.

PRI is proud to implement these fellowships in partnership with some of New York City's leaders in the fields of youth justice and public policy advocacy.

Placements

Fellows gain hands-on practical experience through service learning placements at a growing network of partner agencies throughout New York City. In addition to providing students with valuable work experience in direct service and advocacy, these fellowships build the operational capacity of their host organizations by providing them with students who are both rigorously trained and continuously supported throughout the placement period.

Coursework

The experience Fellows gain through their field placements is supported and enriched by academic coursework that provides a foundational understanding of the relevant theoretical literature in their fields, as well as placement-specific skills such as youth counseling and policy analysis. Our practicum courses provide a robust educational experience and equip students with the necessary skills to be employable in their field of choice.

Professional Enrichment

PRI provides a range of professional enrichment opportunities to its Fellows, including workplace skill development, leadership training, and interpersonal effectiveness. As part of professional enrichment PRI also hosts the bi-annual Pinkerton Youth Symposia, which engage practitioners, policymakers, and scholars from across the field of youth justice in a lively discussion on relevant issues pertaining to court-involved youth. Alumni services are also available to our Fellows in order to support their pursuit of advanced degrees and employment.

Pinkerton Community Fellowship

The Pinkerton Community Fellowship is a 15-month program in which outstanding John Jay College undergraduates complete intensive placements at distinguished community-based organizations that focus on youth justice. In these placements they engage in a wide variety of programming for justice-involved youth, including activities such as:

Developing career readiness workshops and educational enrichment activities for young people in a school-based alternative-to-incarceration program

Gardening and landscaping on Rikers Island, as part of a therapeutic horticulture program designed to teach marketable hard skills and improve soft skills

Accompanying groups of children on overnight trips to visit their mothers incarcerated at Albion Correctional Facility

Fellows participate in personal and professional development while earning academic credits through the Practicum in Youth Justice course. This course covers the needs of justice-involved youth, interventions aimed at this group, and the organizational management and policy contexts in which community-based organizations carry out their work.

Pinkerton Graduate Community Fellowship

The Pinkerton Graduate Community Fellowship is a 12-month program for John Jay College Forensic Psychology and Forensic Mental Health Counseling M.A. students. Fellows fulfill a key requirement of their M.A. program by participating in an externship with a partner organization. In these positions they gain hands-on experience and clinical supervision from leaders in the field of youth justice as they are tasked with activities such as:

Conducting new client intakes, psychosocial assessments, and individual psychotherapy sessions

Accompanying justice-involved young people to family court to provide support

Facilitating group counseling sessions with youth, family members, and other stakeholders

Graduate Community Fellows also earn six credits through a two-semester course designed to enhance their understanding of clinical practice and youth justice, and participate in ongoing personal and professional development seminars throughout the fellowship period.

Tow Policy Advocacy Fellowship

Through the Tow Policy Advocacy Fellowship, John Jay College graduate students complete intensive 10-month placements with top social justice organizations. The initiative prepares fellows to advocate skillfully for policy reform through hands-on experience in the field, through activities such as:

Researching, collecting, and analyzing information about clients' experiences as a method of informing policy advocacy

Conducting constituent outreach, participating in coalition and legislative meetings, developing materials, and tracking legislation and media

Researching criminal justice debt and justice-involved veterans, and assisting with participatory budgeting efforts

While engaging in fieldwork, Fellows also earn six credits to build relevant skills and better understand the history and theory of policy advocacy. Fellows develop a broad set of skills that enable them not only to develop empirically valid policy analysis and arguments, but also to communicate them effectively.