

Dear [Employer's Name],

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the Counseling Practicum/Internship position at Chicago Counseling Associates. Currently pursuing my Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at DePaul University, I am eager to apply my knowledge and passion for person-centered therapy and my commitment to supporting LGBTQIA+ identity development to contribute to the outstanding work conducted at CCA.

The values and principles upheld by CCA align seamlessly with my personal and professional philosophy. I deeply resonate with the belief in the dignity and autonomy of each individual and family and that high-quality, affordable counseling services allow this to blossom. Throughout my academic journey, I have immersed myself in diverse mental health-related environments, working and volunteering to support vulnerable populations. Further, what draws me to CCA is its commitment to the person-centered approach. As an intern, focusing on person-centered theory aligns with my goals of continuing to develop the counseling skills of empathy, unconditional positive regard, and congruence as the foundation of my journey as a counseling professional. I am interested in somatic therapy, IFS, feminist theory, and Gestalt theory. These approaches and person-centered theory all focus on the whole person.

I am impressed by CCA's inclusion of gender identity, sexual orientation, and affirmative LGBTQIA+ identity development. I am interested in working in this area as someone who identifies within the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. I found my passion for this during my Multiculturalism class at DePaul and when I strengthened my LGBTQIA+ identity in therapy. This experience contributed to my decision that I wanted to help others accept themselves, support their identity, work through the hardships of being a part of this vulnerable population, and celebrate queer joy. These areas are of utmost interest to me as I navigate counseling. In addition, including a New Clinicians Consultation Group is particularly appealing, as it aligns with my desire for mentorship and support as a budding therapist.

In conclusion, during my time at DePaul, I gained invaluable insights and skills through various diverse classes, each contributing to my holistic understanding of mental health counseling. These experiences, combined with my genuine passion for the field, dedication to person-centered counseling, and commitment to inclusivity, make me confident in my ability to make a meaningful contribution to CCA's mission. I am grateful for your consideration and look forward to the possibility of contributing to Chicago Counseling Associates.

Sincerely,