



# Alcohol Safety Action Program

## Placement Description

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The Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program site will provide students with experience in applied research, intake and assessment of court ordered probationers, substance abuse related psychoeducation, and habitual offender intervention.

Students will learn what happens to those convicted of Driving While Intoxicated (D.W.I.), by observing D.W.I. trials in the Rockingham / Harrisonburg General District Court. Students will have the opportunity to observe and perform enrollments, intakes, assessments, and drug screening for individuals ordered to VASAP. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to observe alcohol/drug education classes.

## Intern or Field Placement Responsibilities/Opportunities

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- Assist with education/intervention groups
- Help compile reports for court
- Do follow-up calls
- Observe in court
- Case management
- Drug screens
- Enroll probationers

## Contact Information

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## **Read about student experiences at this site below:**

### *Fall 2022 – Rachel Pack*

The Rockingham/Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program's (ASAP) mission is “to improve highway safety by decreasing the incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, leading to the reduction of alcohol and drug-related fatalities and crashes.” In order to fulfill their mission, there are 24 ASAPs throughout Virginia that offer a variety of services. The main services ASAP offers are education classes, intervention interviews, ignition interlock, driver improvement classes, and the oversight of cases for people convicted of DUIs or other alcohol-related charges (case management). Most of the cases at ASAP are people who have been convicted of a DUI, but they also handle cases for young offenders who received an underage possession charge. When a person is referred by the Courts to complete ASAP, they are interviewed by a case manager to understand what happened during the arrest and get a better understanding of their drinking habits to see what type of treatment is needed. Clients enrolled at ASAP are required to complete an education class. There are various education classes offered and clients are classified as needing either an intensive education class, a treatment education class, or a young offender class. The difference between the intensive education class and the treatment education class is that clients enrolled in the treatment education class must attend treatment (typically group counseling) as well.

My responsibilities as an intern included performing breath tests, collecting and packaging samples for drug screens, scanning documents, updating clients' files in the Enginuity Case Management System, attending court, and observing and leading intake interviews. The first few weeks I spent observing my supervisor, who was one of the case managers, perform his daily tasks while explaining to me what he was doing. After observing him complete tasks a couple of times, he then let me do the task with his help by telling me what to type and where different things were located on the computer. After a couple of weeks, I was able to take on more responsibility and do tasks on my own without his help. Other responsibilities I had the opportunity to do included answering the phones, taking payments from clients, and assisting with enrolling clients.

My first impression of the site was that it was small. There is a director, two case managers, a part-time employee, and an office manager. However, the size of the site was an advantage because the interns are able to help out a lot around the office performing various tasks. Although my main role was to observe my supervisor who was one of the case managers, I often was able to assist with the office/front desk as well. This was an advantage to the site because if my case manager did not have something for me to do at the moment or was out of the office, I could help by answering phones and helping clients when they came to ASAP to pay



fees or visit with their case manager. This allowed me to learn how to perform even more duties that will be helpful in future careers. Another advantage is that you are able to do hands-on work instead of just observing your supervisor. Once I learned how to do the tasks typical of a case manager, I was able to use the third office with its own computer to do my tasks independently. This was nice because I was able to help out around the office and contribute, rather than just observe. Since I typically did the same tasks each day, I had a good understanding of how to do each task without needing assistance. However, if I did have a question about how to do something, my supervisor and the other employees were very helpful. They always explained things to me when I needed it and made sure I knew I could come back to them if I needed more help or had other questions. Interning at ASAP had many advantages, but I think the most important ones were learning skills that could be used in various job positions, not just case management, and how to interact with people, specifically those with substance abuse issues.

I think the only disadvantage to this site is that some clients are not happy to be there and will vocalize their feelings. Luckily, most of the clients I interacted with were very respectful and enjoyed talking with me. I occasionally would have a client who was in a bad mood because they did not want to be at ASAP or pay fees, so they would not directly answer questions during the intake interview which made my role harder. However, my supervisor was always there to step in when I did not know what to say to a client which helped me learn how to handle different situations. I loved meeting with the clients and getting to know new clients during intake interviews, and I looked forward to going to ASAP twice a week because I never knew what to expect. Some of the clients started to remember me as well and would talk to me about their lives when they came in to visit with their case manager. I loved seeing how happy clients were when they made progress towards completing ASAP or other improvements in their personal life.

While interning at ASAP this past semester, I learned the skills needed to be a case manager and confidently complete tasks independently. This site was an amazing place to be an intern because I felt that each employee wanted me to learn and grow and would go out of their way to help me. I was able to do a wide variety of jobs while interning there and learned so much about case management, substance abuse, the court system, and what happens after someone has been convicted of a DUI or other alcohol-related charges. Most importantly, I learned that I am capable of being professional and learning new skills quickly. Not only did I grow professionally, but I also grew as an individual by being able to talk to a wide variety of people and be more confident in myself and my abilities.

Before doing Introductory Field Work, I wanted to become a mental health counselor but had some interest in substance abuse counseling as well. After this semester at ASAP, I have decided I am more interested in substance abuse counseling and want to pursue that after graduating. However, before I get my license to become a counselor, I hope to get a job as a case manager working with people who have substance abuse issues. I have loved my time at ASAP



and learned so much from each employee and would recommend it to any student looking at potential field placement sites!

***Fall 2022 – Jordan Edmunds***

The mission at the Rockingham/Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program, also known as ASAP, “is to reduce the level of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage as a result of drunk drivers”. This is realized by placing these drivers, who are referred from the court, into either an intensive education or treatment program. The program’s purpose is to create awareness of drunk driving and reduce its occurrence in the future. ASAP does not only work with DUI cases, but under age possession of alcohol cases are managed as well. ASAP works with the DMV and court to break clients’ habits of resorting to alcohol, and then choosing to drive a vehicle while intoxicated. Therefore, the goal is that once these clients are educated and given proper counseling through ASAP’s program, they will refrain from driving while intoxicated.

The services provided by ASAP include evaluation, referral, and monitoring of a client's case to aid their unhealthy drinking habits. Each client is assigned to a case manager. The case manager is in charge of managing an individual's file which entails signed release and consent forms, posted fees, the client's history, and case progress updates. All of this information and monitoring from the case manager ensures that the individuals will follow all of the steps they need or are required to close their case. For example, if there is a person charged with a DUI and they have to go in ASAP to speak with the case manager, they will be given a breathalyzer test before they can start the process. Then the case manager will perform intake assessments, and depending on the client’s status, administer a drug screen test. ASAP is partnered with law enforcement agencies, mental health resources, and community service agencies to help individuals become the best version of themselves. In doing so, these agencies survey the clients’ progress and success rate over ASAP’s alcohol education course to evaluate their likelihood of becoming sober. Some individuals within the ASAP program are there because it is court ordered. Furthermore, the case managers at ASAP go to court once a month on a Monday so the judge can decide if the specific client needs to be doing more mental health work for his or case. This could involve attending more appointments/classes at ASAP, performing more community service hours, or possibly stern counseling so that he or she does not skip counseling program sessions.

As I began my internship with ASAP, I did not know much about the in depth legal process of handling DUI and alcoholic offenses. I was always very curious as to “why” some clients had to do intensive education vs the “why” for treatment referral. During my internship, I was constantly learning new skills of managing a case, how to organize files pertaining to certain clients, and the punishments for DUI or underage possession of alcohol. In my time at ASAP, I learned by shadowing a case manager. The many tasks he would perform included administering drug screen tests and packaging them to a lab, conducting intake interviews, making calls to witnesses and clients, scanning and copying documents, organizing paperwork for a client's file,



conducting breathalyzer tests, and updating a client's case on the Engenuity Case Management site.

After a month or so, I was able to start doing some of these tasks as a case manager myself while also working as a team with my manager. For the drug screens, my supervisor would let me seal and package the urine samples, then I would work with the donor to sign proper release documents while my supervisor would communicate with the client about their case. Additionally, I was able to learn how to conduct intake interviews. I was very nervous conducting my first one. However, my supervisor really helped me become comfortable with this process by practicing with me. These “intakes” are a critical part of client registration and an introduction into ASAP for them to begin the process of mental health recovery. After some practice and time, I was fully able to conduct the interview all by myself. Specifically, I would ask the clients to provide details about the charge and a description of their offense and what happened. I would also gain information regarding their history with alcohol or drug use and if they have ever been treated for alcohol use before. Furthermore, after each intake session I was able to proficiently update the client’s responses from the interview into the Engenuity Case Management Platform while my supervisor was able to catch up on work that he needed to complete. One other process used at ASAP I never heard of was ignition interlock. This is a device used to disable vehicles from starting until the driver demonstrates sobriety by blowing into the device. Since I wrote a paper on the interlock process, I really dove in with my supervisor and discussed the details and issues clients have with violating the in-vehicle breathalyzer devices. During this experience, I was able to become much more educated about the alcohol penalty adherence process.

I received a number of benefits from interning at ASAP. First of all, I’ve been thinking my career path would head towards becoming a paralegal someday. Therefore, acquiring case management skills, having one on one time with clients, and updating progress on these cases has some alignment to the role of a paralegal. Another advantage of interning here is that I learned how to appropriately communicate with particular types of clients from diverse backgrounds. These individuals in intake sessions would sometimes question my case manager’s reasoning for referral to treatment assessment, or interlock violation issues. Observing my case manager, I saw how well he handled those who struggled with past addiction. I learned that careful wording such as, “It’s not based on my opinion, but off of ASAP’s guidelines”, was the best way to calm down the clients who disagreed with the policies. The only disadvantage I would say was that I was not able to observe the court trials as often as I wanted or anticipated. Unfortunately, around the time I was interning there wasn’t as much staff to cover the front desk, so I would help out at the front answering calls.

Overall, I’m so happy that ASAP was my very first internship because I got to experience some elements of the justice system, help in keeping the community safe, as well as assisting individuals to make better choices when it comes to alcohol. Managing DUI cases allowed me to realize that I would also enjoy a career in aiding those with alcohol and substance abuse addictions as well as being involved in the legal system. Alcohol can alter a person’s personality and cause so much damage to a person’s life. It helped me realize how passionate I am about this problem and I want to be involved to help individuals with substance abuse in the future.



Additionally, I learned that I want to deal with more criminal cases in my future career and be involved with the justice system. Lastly, ASAP could be very busy and the time went by fast which I loved about this internship. Since there was always a client to see or case updates to be completed, I realized I need a career in the future that can be challenging and allows me to be productive at all times. My internship at ASAP only strengthened my interest in the justice system and passion for helping people.

### *Spring 2022 – Faith Fischetti*

The mission of the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program, also known as ASAP, is to “reduce the level of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage as a result of drunk drivers by evaluating such drivers as referred by the court and appropriately placing them in an education or counseling program, which is designed to change driving while intoxicated behavior”. It is also the intent of ASAP to educate others on driving under the influence, create awareness within our community, and modify the public’s attitudes towards drunk driving. Most of the clients that ASAP sees are DUIs, but they also work with those who receive underage possession charges. ASAP is a non-profit organization that works with the DMV and court system to change one’s drinking behavior and ensure the community’s safety.

At ASAP, every client is assigned a case manager, who then monitors and reviews their case. The ASAP case managers work with the court, law enforcement, mental health professionals, community service agencies, and social services to monitor the individual cases. They attend court every other Monday and play an important role in communicating the status of the client, discussing their progress, and helping the court decide next steps. ASAP also serves as a support system for their clients, for they are always meeting with the clients when necessary, performing drug screens to ensure abstinence, and encouraging them to make the right decisions. Aside from DUI and young offender services, ASAP offers driving improvement courses to educate on safer driving strategies.

Throughout my time at ASAP I was able to gain a lot of responsibility and independence. I started out shadowing my supervisor, learning the roles of a case manager, gaining an understanding of the legal system and becoming educated on the consequences of receiving a DUI in Virginia. As time went on, I began to complete more tasks on my own and interact with a plethora of clients. There was always something to do at ASAP, for there are only three case managers who have around 300 clients each. My tasks included attending court, organizing client files, updating the Engenuity Case Management System, scanning documents, performing breath tests, observing and conducting client drug screens, and packaging these drug screens. I also began to lead the intake sessions, with my supervisor present. Intake sessions occur when a new client enrolls in ASAP, so we sit down with them to understand what happened on the day of their charge, what their history looks like, and determine what services they need from us. I was able to conduct this interview with a multitude of clients and then write up their classification report. I also gained the opportunity of enrolling clients into the ASAP program, communicating



with clients on the phone, monitoring Ignition Interlock devices and writing up violation reports when necessary, preparing show cause documents, and taking client payments.

There are a plethora of advantages of interning at ASAP. First off, you gain a significant amount of skills, even if case management is not the career that you wish to go into. The online case management system, Enginuity, is widely used in a lot of companies. I have full understanding of how to navigate this system and how to document important/confidential information, which will be beneficial to future jobs. Another advantage of ASAP is getting to interact with clients who struggle with substance use. Although not every client has an issue with drugs or alcohol, I did meet numerous clients who do. It was interesting to gain an understanding of how those struggling with addiction act, the way they are able to manipulate others, and overall learning how to determine the best way of helping them. Furthermore, ASAP is a fast-paced environment and there is never a moment that you will have nothing to do, which I feel is a big advantage of the site. The staff really cares about the experience of their interns. I cannot think of any disadvantages of this site, besides the fact that you may deal with some angry clients. The majority of people you encounter are at ASAP because they have to be, not because they want to be. Therefore, they often get upset at the money that they need to pay or how long it will take them to complete the program. Having rude clients is challenging in the moment, but it really did improve my communication skills and teach me how to handle difficult conversations.

ASAP was an outstanding experience and I am so thankful that I was given this opportunity. I actually finished my 80 hours quite early in the semester because I enjoyed going to ASAP so much that I did around 8.5 hours a week. Once I finished my hours, I continued to spend time at the site and worked as a part-time employee. I learned more than I could have expected and I am sad to leave. Given that ASAP was always so busy, I was always learning new things, expanding my skills, and challenging myself. ASAP is not one of those internships where you are simply able to put it on your resume but feel like you did not gain something from it otherwise. I did not sit there and do clerical work, grab coffee, or any of the other little things that some people expect when they are an intern. Rather, I was treated as an employee and my supervisor, as well as the rest of the staff, were beyond supportive of me wanting to learn. They were always happy to answer any questions that I had and teach me everything that they were doing. The employees at ASAP really do have the best intentions for their interns. I have enjoyed this experience so much that it has redirected my career plans. Prior to this experience, I believed that I wanted to go into therapy for eating disorders. Now, I have plans of applying to graduate school for social work and getting a career in social services or helping others who struggle with substance abuse. It sparked an interest in the legal system and taught me that I really enjoy working with others. My time at ASAP has been nothing shy of amazing, eye opening, and the best learning experience.

***Fall 2019 – Jessica Dillon***

The mission at the Rockingham/Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program, also known as ASAP, is to reduce the level of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage as a



result of drunk drivers. They do this by evaluating drivers referred to them by the court. ASAP works to place them in the appropriate education program and refers them to counseling programs as needed. This is designed to change driving while intoxicated behavior in hopes of them not returning to this habit. It is also ASAP's intent to prevent citizens of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham community from driving while intoxicated by increasing the awareness of the problem. They also work towards modifying the general public's attitudes and beliefs about driving while intoxicated to help individuals to choose not to drive under these conditions. While most of what ASAP does has to do with driving while intoxicated they also work with many clients who were caught drinking or possessing alcohol underage. ASAP works with these individuals to change their drinking behavior before it becomes a true problem.

ASAP offers many services. The biggest service that they offer is case management. They serve as a resource to law enforcement agencies within our area to monitor their progress after receiving their charges. Also, they work in adjunct with the court to provide them with any information they would need regarding their person that they referred to ASAP. This could be to prove that they were successful with in the program or to help the court with their sentencing. Also, they also work to promote safer diving habits and to prevent driving under the influence. One way they do this is by giving a presentation to teens, as they receive their drivers licenses, about the negative effects of driving while intoxicated.

During my time at ASAP I got to work alongside one of the case managers at ASAP. At first I just shadowed and learned how to perform intakes with each new client. I also observed in court and saw how the Rockingham/Harrisonburg court functions. As I spent more time at ASAP I did get more freedom. I learned how to lead the group intake portion. During this time I would explain to the clients how to fill out their paperwork and read each document to them so that they would get a clear understanding of what they were signing. I also got to learn how to do the intake interview with each new client. With this part of the intake process I would screen them to see if further treatment was necessary and to get a better understanding of what happened the day they were arrested or received their charge. Also, I learned how to document all of the interactions with the clients. When dealing with documentation I also learned how to use two online systems that ASAP used to keep track of all of the clients files and information. I found this to be very helpful because in the real world most companies that do any sort of client based work will use software like this. It really helped me with my computer skills and becoming more efficient with my note taking.

At ASAP I also got to administer drug tests. Some of these test were for clients who have received drug charges and alcohol tests for those who have abstinence requirements. Other test were also done for the court or family services since ASAP also serves as a testing location for them. With this I have learned a lot about keeping my composure in a stressful situation or when someone has something negative to say me. Most of the tests that I observed or administered were clean, but there were also many that were not. For the tests that were positive for some type of substance most of the clients made us aware from the start that it might come back positive. There were also many that were not truthful. These were usually the clients that would get very angry or act as if it was our fault that they could not pass the test. With this I learned how to keep my cool when things would get stressful. At first I really let it rub me the wrong way when



clients would get angry with me over things that are out of my control, but this part of my experience at ASAP really helped me see that this is not something that I should stress over.

While at ASAP I feel that I was given the opportunity to learn also and ask as many questions as I want. Everyone in the office was super open and welcoming to me as the intern. They also made each task they wanted me to accomplish very clear and easy to follow which helped a lot with getting use to how they run their day to day functions.

The only disadvantage of working at ASAP is there is not extra computer for the intern to use on their own. So, at times I felt that I was just sitting there not being much help because there was not really much I could do on my own without a computer. They really helped try to accommodate me by letting me use their computers while they were out of the office at court or during lunch breaks.

From my time at ASAP I truly learned a lot about how the court system works, different things about substance abuse treatment, and about case management. This experience has really opened my eyes to a lot of different career options. I never really saw myself working with this population, but after my time at ASAP I could see myself maybe wanting to go into substance abuse counseling or even probation and parole. My time at ASAP really opened my eyes more to other fields that are out there.

### *Spring 2019 – Morgan DeHart*

My field placement internship at Rockingham/Harrisonburg ASAP was a very rewarding experience. Their mission is to reduce the level of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage as a result of drunk drivers by evaluating the drivers that were referred by the court and appropriately placing them in an education or counseling program. These programs are designed to change their driving behavior. It is also the intent of ASAP to bring awareness of the problem to the public, modifying the general public's attitude and beliefs about driving while intoxicated to a position where they choose not to drive while intoxicated. ASAP is a beneficial program that wants to help keep the community safe and help people learn from their mistakes. It is a non-profit organization that works with the court and DMV to help citizens learn from their mistakes and make changes for the safety of them and others around them.

In this internship, there was never a dull moment. The case workers are always busy and running around the place making sure to be on top of everything. The case managers at ASAP have around 400 cases EACH. They are basically superheroes. While I was there, I learned a lot about the court system and consequences of drug charges, DUI charges and underage possession charges. Acting as a case worker, I was able to involve myself like a social worker for individuals. My duties included having individual intakes with many different types of people with different charges and putting their confidential information into the computer system proficiently. I was able to ask the intake questions and get their story behind the charge. For example, when a young offender comes in, they usually have an underage possession of alcohol charge. I would ask them what happened on the day of the charge, and ask about the amount they consumed and see the extent of if what happened was either a one-time incident, or could it be a



reoccurring problem. Each person that comes into ASAP has to take an education course, but some might need additional help and get substance abuse treatment.

My impression of ASAP is that I loved every minute I was there. I loved learning new things about the system and I loved hearing about each case. There are a lot of problems regarding addiction and substance abuse and I hope to continue doing work in this field. It really surprised me how gullible at first I was to some of the types of people that come in there. There would be an addict, and they would say that they haven't touched any drugs in 6 months. Then we would get a drug test on them and find that they are positive for the drugs they said they weren't doing. It just shows that some of people that come in there are addicts and shows what type of person an addict is. There is not always bad cases though, and sometimes I did feel bad for certain people that came in there because their charge was more of, "wrong place, wrong time." After seeing more and more cases, I began to not get as emotionally involved and got used to the different cases. This experience is more of a social work job, and although I am more research oriented, this experience was extremely beneficial to broaden my horizons and get another perspective of psychology. I am so glad I decided to step out of my comfort zone and take on this experience because it was really a great time.

Some advantages of this place of work was learning about the process of the court for charges mentioned above. In Virginia, driving drunk is punished way harder than any other state (as it should be). There are many requirements one has to go through in order to get their license back after getting a DUI. Also it is great getting the chance to interact with the client and give them important information and advice to continue to change their behavior so they can get back on the right track. Going to ASAP is the first step in trying to better oneself and get the charge dismissed so the client does not feel they are labeled. There were a range of people from the college kids to older people, all with varying charges. The stories I heard from people were very interesting and also eye-opening of how people addicted to substances may not see how bad drugs/alcohol are affecting their life and in a negative way. Some people are very compliant and want to do better, while others do not. There were many skills I learned that I can use in future experiences to practice and also continue to get better. I was able to be independent and get my duties done and I learned so much from the case workers there.

For my future, I know now that the social work field could be something that I can excel in. When I was finishing the internship, they offered me a job. I would have taken it if I was not already leaving and graduating. Since I am moving to D.C., my supervisor said if I wanted to get a job up there at their ASAP, she would happily write me a recommendation. It is a very amazing opportunity to get your foot in the door and open up new doors. This internship is more of a social work job basically so it is for a good cause. It is a non-profit organization and really opened my eyes about the non-profit world. I think they are beneficial and helpful for the community, deserving way more credit than it gets.



The mission of the Rockingham/Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) is to reduce the levels of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage resulting from drunk drivers by providing them with education or counseling programs. In addition, ASAP aims to prevent drunk driving by increasing awareness of the problem and modifying the public's attitude and beliefs concerning driving while intoxicated. The services that ASAP provides are education, intensive education, and treatment programs for people who receive DUI convictions from the court or drug charges. The office also provides habitual offender relapse prevention, driver improvement, driving suspended, and ignition interlock services. There are three case managers, an enrollment officer, two secretaries, and a director that work in the office. When clients are referred from court they undergo an intake process where they are classified and assigned a case manager. The office also handles transferred cases from other ASAP offices around the state of Virginia.

During my time at ASAP I was provided with a multitude of different opportunities. I was able to work closely with one of the case managers and learned a great deal about the paperwork required to manage her caseload. I was also able to sit in on client meetings with the case manager, which allowed me to learn more about an individual case. In addition, I learned how to perform intakes and classify a client as education, intensive education, or treatment. As the semester progressed I became responsible for typing up all intake notes into the database that ASAP uses and for putting together treatment referrals. During this time I would also set community service and drug screen reminders for the remainder of the clients time in the program. Clients who have received a DUI or a drug offense are required to be drug screened during their time on probation and I had the opportunity to learn how to properly conduct a drug screen. Performing intakes was my favorite aspect of my field placement at ASAP because it allowed me an opportunity to get to know the clients better and see how the program worked from the very start of a client's enrollment.

Another great experience that I had at ASAP was attending the Rockingham/Harrisonburg General District Court as well as the Circuit Court. Clients who fail to comply with the policies of ASAP or their probation are sent back to court and it was very interesting to observe their cases. While many of the cases are continued to allow the offender an opportunity to get back into compliance, there are also times when clients are revoked from the program and sent to jail. One thing that was especially interesting to me is that there were two different judges in the district court that had very different styles. One of the judges would continue almost every case while the other was much more strict and was more likely to send someone to jail. At the end of my time, the more lenient judge retired and therefore I expect that many of the cases handed over to the new judge will end up being revoked or sent to jail. As I became more familiar with the court process and how a show cause works, I was actually able to write the show cause and present a few cases to the judge with the assistance of one of the case managers.



Because I did my field placement during the spring semester, I was able to participate in the high school health fair at three of the local high schools. I was able to plan an interactive game using beer goggles to demonstrate why it isn't smart to drink and drive and also designed a poster about the effects of alcohol. I really enjoyed doing this because it gave me a chance to interact with students and inform them about the consequences of underage drinking as well as drug use. Many of the students were unaware of the penalties associated with underage alcohol use and had no idea what ASAP even was. It was nice to be able to educate them and hopefully prevent them from using alcohol or drugs at a young age in a fun, engaging way.

I absolutely loved everything about working at ASAP. All of the staff was extremely helpful and friendly which made going in very enjoyable and I actually continued to go even after I finished all of my required hours. However, there were a few downsides to doing my field placement here. Different days of the week are used for different purposes at ASAP and I was unable to go in on Tuesdays or Thursdays, which are used, for paperwork and habitual offender reviews so unfortunately I could not observe those. Court is also on Monday afternoons and since I had class I could not always stay to observe the full proceedings. There were also times when there would not be a lot of work for me to do for the case managers so I would just be filing or helping the front office. Despite these minor downsides, the overall experience was positive and I definitely learned a great deal and was able to have a lot of hands on opportunities.

My future career plans are to eventually become a licensed substance abuse counselor and working at ASAP has definitely confirmed that this is something that I would like to do. Even though I was somewhat nervous at the beginning of the semester about interacting with the clients, I am now much more comfortable with it and feel as though I can better explain the program to them and answer their questions. While some of the clients can be difficult to work with, many of them are friendly and cooperative and it is very rewarding to see them successfully complete ASAP. Working at ASAP has definitely improved my communication skills, which will be useful for any future career opportunities I may have.

Overall, I am so happy to have had the opportunity not only to participate in field placement, but also to have completed it at a site that afforded me such wonderful experiences. Going in to the office was one of my favorite parts of the week and I will be sad to leave and say goodbye to all of the wonderful people I worked with.

*Spring 2015 – Mark Mullenex*

The mission at the Alcohol Safety Action Program is to, “to reduce the level of accidents, injuries, fatalities, and property damage as a result of drunk drivers by evaluating such drivers as referred by the court and appropriately placing them in an education or counseling program, which is designed to change driving while intoxicated behavior.” It is also the mission of the Alcohol Safety action Program to, “prevent citizens from driving while intoxicated by increasing



the awareness of the problem, modifying the general public's attitude and beliefs about driving while intoxicated to a position where they choose not to drive while intoxicated.”

While at ASAP, I was allowed to do a variety of tasks that a case manager does on a daily basis. When I first started at ASAP, I would help the case managers file while learning more about the ASAP program. After getting more familiar with the program, I was then allowed to participate in the intake process. Intake is the first appointment the offenders have with their case manager. During the intake process I would set up the room by getting all the necessary paperwork ready. Once all the clients had filled out their paperwork, I would then read to them the conditions of their probation as well as the confidentiality guidelines. Once this was done I would hand out the different cases to the case managers and the clients would then be brought back to complete an intake questionnaire. After asking the questions to the probationer, both the case manager and myself would determine whether the client should be classified as education, intensive education, or treatment. In addition to the intake process, conducting drug and alcohol screens was another thing that I was able to do. I was also able to work in the front office. In the front office I was asked to answer phone calls and collect ASAP fees from clients. All in all, my supervisor allowed me to do everything that a case manager was expected to do.

Like any field placement site there will always be advantages and disadvantages. Some of the advantages that I found while being at ASAP is that they gave you a lot of opportunities to get hands on experience rather than just making you observe all day. I was constantly moving all day, whether that was leading intakes, conducting drug screens, or working the front office. Another advantage to working at ASAP is that the staff is extremely nice and helpful. Disadvantages to working at ASAP is that the program is court mandated and many people are angry that they have to complete this program in order to get their driving privileges back. Another disadvantage is that ASAP is an education program through the court and doesn't allow you to be as helpful to your clients as many psychology majors want to be. At ASAP, the case managers are unable to provide any form of counseling but rather they are only able to educate clients on the rules of their probation and answer any questions they may have about their time at ASAP. Overall, if you like interacting with others and like a fast paced work environment, then ASAP will be a good fit for you.

There are many things that I have learned throughout my time at the Alcohol Safety Action Program. Some of things that I have learned while being at ASAP are the laws/regulations of drug and alcohol charges, the duties/responsibilities of a case manager, how to perform a drug /alcohol screen, learning to work in a fast paced environment, how to prepare documents for court, and how to deal with difficult clients. These are just a couple of the things that I have learned while at ASAP, but the list could go on and on. My experience at ASAP has strengthened my desire to help people. While this program is structured more on educational components than it is on counseling, it does offer some opportunities where a case manager can act in ways with clients similar to how a counselor would. ASAP is great entry level job for people who enjoy helping people but also for individuals who want to take some time off before going back to school to get their masters.

Because the position of a case manager is an entry level job, there are a lot of employment opportunities for someone who is looking for a job after finishing their bachelor



degree. I knew about this before starting my field placement, and that is one of the reasons why I decided to choose ASAP as my placement. By learning all the responsibilities and duties of a case manager, it will set you up perfectly for any case manager opening that may come about from surrounding ASAPs. Due to the case manager skills that I learned throughout my field placement, I was offered a case manager position at the Alexandria ASAP before I graduate from JMU. In conclusion, if you really apply yourself to learning the duties and responsibilities of a case manager you will have a very good chance of being hired at any Alcohol Safety Action Program.

### *Fall 2014 – Jamie Erlemeier*

The Rockingham/Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program, also known as ASAP, was established in 1975. ASAP's primary mission is to increase highway safety by reducing the incidence of drunk driving. The three case managers, enrollment officer, two receptionists, and a director work toward this goal by receiving referrals from the court system. The top three referrals are community service, driver improvement and driver suspension. Last year 2,312 people were referred to ASAP from the court system. In addition, ASAP conducts intakes for DUIs, drug offenders, and young offenders. Based on the intakes, case managers place clients in either a class that is held in the ASAP building or refer them for a substance abuse assessment. ASAP is not federally or state funded; it is funded solely on the fees of their clients.

I was fortunate in the experiences and opportunities ASAP provided me. I learned how to do a lot of the paperwork to support the case manager's jobs. Furthermore, I learned how to handle transactions when clients came in to pay their fees. I was also able to conduct intakes and then place the clients in an education class, an intensive education class, or treatment. Then, I was responsible for typing up the intake into the database that ASAP uses and creating reminders for drug screens and/or community service in the future. Drug screens were another experience I had the opportunity to participate in because all DUI and drug offenders have to be drug screened. One thing I loved about my site was the trust they instilled in me by allowing me to handle transactions, intakes, and drug screens.

I had the opportunity to learn a wealth of knowledge about drug screening, how clients fake drug screens, and false positive drug screens. If a drug screen comes back positive and the client is adamant that the test is wrong, then the protocol, with their consent, is to send the urine sample to Redwood in California for further testing. I have witnessed a few times where the drug screens were false positives; one was a false positive for methamphetamines and the other for opiates. The methamphetamines false positive was linked back to an over the counter acid reflux medication and the opiates false positive was linked back to the client eating a poppy seed bagel that morning! I always thought that eating a poppy seed bagel and then testing positive for opiates was a myth, so needless to say that was eye opening to witness first hand. Furthermore, clients are also sometimes tested for alcohol with an EtG that can detect alcohol in their system



for up to 72 hours. I witnessed many clients fail EtGs because they were naïve and didn't believe how reliable these tests actually were.

One of my favorite experiences was going to court. It was fascinating to me to see how the court system worked in Rockingham/Harrisonburg City. An interesting observation I witnessed was that many of the case reviews for the show causes, which are clients that are sent back to court for noncompliance, had different outcomes despite being very similar in nature. One case would be dismissed, and then the next case would be sentenced to a few days in jail. Additionally, I observed the judge to rule differently with regards to community service for the exact same charges. It seemed that as it got later in the day the judge would increase community service hours. Furthermore, another interesting observation from court was that the lawyers seem to control the courtroom. They try to make deals with the commonwealth's attorney before court has even started then sometimes the ASAP case manager is blindsided in front of the judge.

Like with any field placement, there are always a few downsides and my field placement at ASAP was no different. I often did receptionist duties if there were no intakes or court in session. In addition, in November there were two government holidays where things slowed down at ASAP and I was not really needed. I was doing busy work to essentially just get hours.

My future career is to be a therapist for individuals suffering from the disease of addiction; I personally would love to work with 18-24 year olds. I plan to get my MSW to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. From the beginning of the semester until now, I have grown much more comfortable with the clients at ASAP and conversing with them. In the beginning of the semester, I was more timid when I was conducting the intakes; now I am more relaxed and feel more at ease leading the intake. This will help me in my future career goals because this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. The intakes remind me of what a first session with a client may resemble. In addition, I am much more relaxed talking to coworkers, people of power such as the commonwealth's attorney, or anyone else that I may have to interact with. I would say ASAP has helped me develop my confidence as well as communication skills.

Overall I am extremely grateful for my time with ASAP; in fact I cannot believe it is over. It has become such a part of my routine that I look forward to going, seeing the coworkers, and the clients. One of the best parts of ASAP is that every single day is different; you never know what adventure is going to occur that day when you walk into