

# Blake Newton (Newt)

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Intern | Refugee Advocate

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## CORE STRENGTHS

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- ◇ Cross-Cultural Communication
- ◇ Excellent Judgment
- ◇ Reliability
- ◇ Relationship Building
- ◇ Critical Thinking
- ◇ Adaptability

## EXPERIENCE

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### Whitewater Raft Guide | May 2026 – Present

Rolling Thunder Rafting Company, McCayesville, GA

- Built rapport with guests from diverse backgrounds through empathy and effective communication
- Supported participants experiencing fear or anxiety, fostering confidence in challenging situations
- Communicated safety procedures and complex instructions clearly to groups with varying experience levels
- Exercised sound judgment and maintained composure in dynamic, high-pressure environments
- Collaborated with team members to ensure participant safety and deliver positive client experiences

### Clinical Experience | May 2025 – May 2026

**Student Practicum Intern**, Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center, New Orleans, LA

- Provided trauma-informed counseling to a diverse caseload of clients
- Collaborated with clients to develop personalized, goal-oriented treatment plans
- Implemented evidence-based interventions aligned with clients' needs and goals
- Coordinated scheduling and case management tasks for ongoing client care
- Engaged in weekly individual and group supervision to enhance clinical skills

### Receptionist | June 2025 – August 2025

Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center, New Orleans, LA

- Served as the first point of contact for clients, ensuring a welcoming and professional environment
- Managed high call volume and direct inquiries to appropriate staff or resources
- Oversaw client check-in procedures, including payment processing and appointment updates
- Maintained and organized the counseling center's waitlist for new and returning clients
- Performed daily administrative tasks and close office operations efficiently

### Field Experience in Refugee Aid | October 2023 – November 2023

**Volunteer**, MRDS (NGO), Erbil, Iraq

- Learned how to communicate effectively and sensitively in potentially emotionally charged environments, ensuring a comfortable and supportive exchange
- Practiced attentive listening to identify unspoken needs & interpret non-verbal cues for tailored support
- Gained insights into sustainable aid models that support without undermining the local economy's stability

### Cultural Immersion & Community Integration | March 2022 – October 2023

**Volunteer**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; New York, New York; Durham, NC; Raleigh, NC

*Volunteered with various refugee-focused NGOs, including MRDS, Global Gates, World Relief Durham, and Refugee Hope Partners, to better understand global refugee circumstances and learn how to better care for refugees across the system*

- Located, established relationships, and integrated with refugee populations, learning to communicate effectively and sensitively in potentially emotionally charged environments
- Self-immersed in a new culture, engaging with and relating to diverse communities
- Established connections, fostered relationships, and built trust within refugee communities, demonstrating empathy and building strong bonds
- Capable of autonomous and self-directed project management with minimal external influence
- Honed adept cross-cultural communication skills, particularly with limited English proficiency

## EDUCATION

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**M.A., Clinical Mental Health**, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, *New Orleans, LA* | Expected December 2027

**B.S., Environmental Science: Quantitative Energy Systems**, University of North Carolina, *Chapel Hill, NC* | 2021

## TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

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**Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)**, EMDR Support Network, *New Orleans, LA* | 2025

**EMDR 2.0**, Enhancing Trauma Treatment Institute, *Online* | 2026

**Gottman Method Couples Therapy – Level 1 & 2**, Gottman Institute, *Online* | *In-Progress*

**Story-Informed Trauma Therapy Foundations Training**, SITT Central, *Online* | *In-Progress*

## LANGUAGES

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**English:** Native

**Arabic:** Intermediate in Syrian Dialect, Elementary in Modern Standard (MSA)

**German:** High Elementary

**French:** High Elementary

**Mandarin Chinese:** Low Elementary

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Kelle Falterman** | January 2026 – May 2026

**Individual Supervisor**, Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center, New Orleans, LA

- kfalterman@nobts.edu

**Dr. Craig Garrett** | August 2024 – Present

**Professor; Divisional Associate Dean of Counseling**, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA

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**Rachel H.** | August 2018 – Present

**Personal Reference**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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