

Counseling Psychology 505
Practicum in Counseling, Fall 2006
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course is specifically designed to an initial in vivo counseling experience for 1st & 2nd year students. Students are required to spend 7-10 hours on-site at a local community agency. During these hours, students will gain experience with screening, assessment, individual and group therapy as well as discharge planning. In addition to the direct clinician hours, students will receive weekly direct supervision and class sessions. The primary purpose of the course is to avail practicum student's additional counseling supervision in a group setting throughout their supervised practicum experience. The central focus of the class will be on the integration of counselor knowledge and skills addressing the areas of assessment, treatment planning, intervention/prevention philosophies, legal and ethical issues, and relevant theoretically derived counseling perspectives. An additional focus and priority of this class will be on factors directly related to the fostering, development, and maintenance of resources that promote and support student self-care and personal and professional development and growth.

Class activities will primarily be organized around case reviews and treatment planning supplemented with appropriate readings, lectures, role-playing, student presentations, and direct supervision. Critical areas of common interest to all participants will be addressed throughout the semester and other topics of interest will be focused upon as needs and interests are presented. Issues directly related to the importance and awareness of diversity as it is presented in the counseling experience will be addressed throughout the semester.

Class discussions will provide each intern with support, critical feedback, and treatment suggestions/recommendations. Additionally, the discussions will mediate group sharing concerning transference and countertransference issues, theory exploration, personal concerns, and interpersonal communication. It is intended that the practicum student will complete the practicum experience prepared for entry into the internship experience. **It is of fundamental importance that the contents of group discussions be regarded as strictly confidential.**

RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS: Successful completion of this course is necessary for fulfillment of degree requirements for any of the specialty areas in the Counseling Psychology Department. This course is also necessary for gaining access to licensure as a professional counselor, as a school psychologist, or as a school counselor.

Attendance and Active participation

It is imperative that each student attend each class session to receive credit for the required group supervision hours. Any absences must be made up by attendance at another regularly scheduled class session or through scheduling individual supervision hours with the course instructor. Any planned absences must be discussed with and approved by the course supervisor/professor at least two weeks prior to the actual absence. Any unexcused absences will result in the loss of supervision credit and counseling hours for that week.

Course Requirements:

Before any direct client contact hours commence

- Fingerprint documentation (if applicable)
- Background Check
- Acquire liability insurance
- Sign Confidentiality Agreement

Semester Activities

- Presentation from Group Counseling Experiences
- Presentations from Individual Counseling Experiences
- Documentation of Clinical Hours
- Documentation of On-site Supervision
- Evaluation by the On-site Supervisor

Skill Acquisition Objectives for the Internship Experience

- Facilitative interviewing skills including active listening
- Counselor/client relationship building
- Intake interviews emphasizing problem definition and appropriate client-history taking
- Screening and evaluating risk factors for suicide, homicide, being the victim of, or perpetrator of abuse; crisis intervention knowledge and skills
- Working knowledge of community resources
- Screening and assessment for substance use disorders and a working understanding of dual diagnosis issues
- Appropriate documentation and record keeping skills
- Case presentations and the use of appropriate professional language in case presentations; consultation and communication with peers, supervisors, and allied professionals
- Identification and awareness of ethical issues, their evaluation, consultation, and the use of appropriate decision making in resolving ethical concerns

Completion Requirements:

- Minimum of 40 direct service hours
- Effective participation in weekly group and dyadic supervision
- Assigned readings
- All clinical documentation completed timely and thoroughly

Required Texts:

Sacks, S. & Ries, R. (2005). Substance abuse treatment for persons with co-occurring disorders: A Treatment improvement protocol: 42. Rockville, MD: SAMSHA

Grading:

Although this class is graded on the basis of credit/no credit, completion of all requirements at a satisfactory level of competence is necessary to obtain credit. Each student will be evaluated in the areas of counseling competence, self-awareness, theoretical knowledge, integration and application, ethical considerations, effectiveness of oral and written communication, and

openness to feedback. Failure to complete the required number of direct service hours may result in a deferred grade.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student who because of a disability requires some special arrangement in order to meet course requirements should contact the professor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations.

Cultural Diversity

Diversity: Issues of diversity will be addressed throughout the course, in discussions, readings concerning special needs groups, assessment and diagnostic criteria, treatment considerations, and resource allocation within our publicly and privately funded systems. Particular emphasis will be placed on traditionally underserved and stigmatized individuals through the class presentations of the students.

Academic integrity

Students are expected to abide by all college rules concerning academic integrity. Any violations of these rules will be reported for appropriate disciplinary review.

Class Schedule

Class # 1	September 11	
Class # 2	September 18	InAct Group Curricula
Class # 3	September 25	InAct Group Curricula
Class # 4	October 2	TIP 42: Chapter 1
Class # 5	October 9	TIP 42: Chapter 2
Class # 6	October 16	TIP 42: Chapter 4
Class # 7	October 23	TIP 42: Appendix G
Class #8	October 30	TIP 42: Chapter 5
Class # 9	November 6	TIP 42: Chapter 6
Class # 10	November 13	TIP 42: Chapter 8
Class #11	November 20	TIP 42: Appendix H & J
Class # 12	November 27	TIP 42: Chapter 9
Class # 13	December 4	TIP 42: Appendix D
Class # 14	December 11	