

Practicum 7380
Summer Semester 2008

Supervisor: Susan L. Crowley, Ph.D. & Gretchen Gimpel Peacock, Ph.D.

Class time: Thursday 9:00 - 12:00

Individual Supervision Time: to be arranged

Textbooks and Readings: Clinic Manual for USU Psychology Community Clinic.

Course Description & Objectives: This practicum is for students who are continuing to see clinical cases and/or already have at least one semester of clinical experience at USU. It is assumed that students have a basic facility with psychological interventions (e.g., behavior management, cognitive-behavioral strategies, empathy and rapport building). The purpose of this practicum is to broaden and strengthen clinical skills with diverse clients (i.e., adults and children), tie theory to practice, employ interventions that are empirically supported, and integrate assessment procedures throughout the process. As always, emphasis will be placed on competence with regard to professional standards, establishing a therapeutic relationship, problem assessment, case conceptualization, treatment planning, therapeutic intervention, appropriate termination of treatment, outcome evaluation, and (all important) good record keeping. Students carry primary responsibility, with faculty supervision, for each client in their caseload. This practicum also provides an opportunity for students to engage with a diverse group of peers across a wider variety of cases.

The course is variable credit and students may register for 1 to 6 credits. The expectations differ in the number of clients students carry and the number of classes students are expected to attend. Obviously, expectations for good clinical practice are consistent regardless of the number of credits taken. The following is a general breakdown of expectations in terms of hours, class sessions, and clients for the varying credits.

Credits	Clients	Classes	Total Hours*
1	1 – 3	4	50
2	3 – 5	6	100
3	4 – 8	8	150
4	5 – 11	8	200
5	7 – 13	8	250
6	8 – 16	8	300

* Students may count hours across the entire summer, not just during the 8 week semester

Students must also be familiar with the *Ethical Principles of Psychologist and Code of Conduct* as well as relevant local, state, and federal regulations and abide by them. Student should download a copy of the current ethical standards and review them (available through www.apa.org.)

The following are specific course objectives that should be attained. Students should:

1. Be able to effectively conduct intake interviews with clients, and implement an effective treatment plan based on the empirical literature.
2. Be able to conceptualize clinical cases from a variety of theoretical orientations and demonstrate knowledge of theory, intervention across theoretical domains and the ability to tie theory to practice.
3. Be able to effectively provide and receive feedback to/from colleagues and faculty.
4. Gain a better understanding of the role of the psychologist and the link between intervention, client factors, therapist factors, and client outcomes.
5. Gain a better understanding of risk management within psychology.
6. Demonstrate outstanding professionalism in regard to record keeping, ethical standards, timeliness, preparation for supervision meetings, and professional relationships.
7. Be able to competently conduct a psychological evaluation using a variety of instruments as deemed necessary by the supervising faculty member and clinical case, as needed.

Supervision: Supervision will take place on an individual basis and group basis. Group supervision will take place during class meetings and consists of presenting a tape to the treatment team for discussion. Students will meet for individual supervision weekly or as needed depending on caseload. Students are expected to be prepared for all supervision sessions with specific questions, concerns, and a specific portion of tape they wish to review. Additionally, all paperwork should be kept up-to-date in line with the ethical principles of psychologists. The policy regarding paperwork is included at the end of this syllabus. Students are **expected to tape their sessions**. Failure to have tape available will result in a lower evaluation.

Course Requirements

To successfully pass this course students must:

1. Meet minimum time commitment, course attendance, and client cases as outlined. Students should log their hours.
2. Attendance (on time!) at therapy team meetings (class) and verbal participation/contribution in team meetings is required. Students should be prepared to discuss their cases and show video tapes *at every meeting*. Students are expected to provide feedback and suggestions to peers under their own initiative.

3. Students are required to maintain continuous contact with faculty supervisors regarding status of cases. In general, this will take place in individual and group meetings. However, students are expected to use good judgment in informing the supervisor of any unusual case developments. This is not “optional” but an expected part of professional conduct.
4. Develop an appropriate assessment and treatment plan for each client.
5. Students must videotape ALL assessment and treatment sessions with each client. This means checking the equipment before every session to ensure that the session will be recorded.
6. Demonstrate familiarity with professional, ethical, and legal guidelines/statutes, and detailed familiarity with clinic policies and procedures. Students are expected to follow these policies at all times.
7. Conduct/arrange appropriate psychological testing, along with related treatment planning and contact with other professionals involved with the client, as directed or approved by your faculty supervisor and with informed consent from the client.
8. Carry all therapeutic responsibilities for assigned cases and maintain appropriate and prompt communication (letters, phone calls) with other professionals relevant to the case, as approved by your faculty supervisor.
9. Keep up to date with all client related activities. Failure to do so is considered a serious professional lapse and will result in appropriate consequences as outlined in the Rules for Timely Completion of Clinic Responsibilities (attached to this syllabus). Note that clinic paperwork must be completed in the clinic.
10. Complete all other clinical/administrative responsibilities as assigned by your faculty supervisor in a timely manner.
11. Complete an evaluation with your supervisor at the end of the semester. Students will receive an incomplete until their evaluation has been completed. Note that it is the student’s responsibility to have the evaluation completed, not the supervisor’s.
12. Demonstrate the possession and use of effective and appropriate interpersonal and clinical skills during assessment and treatment sessions, and supervision.

Malpractice Insurance: Although students are covered for malpractice insurance by the University when conducting professional behaviors required and/or sanctioned by the program, students are encouraged to carry their own malpractice insurance (e.g., see APA or NASP websites)

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated and assigned grades (P/ F) according to behavior during

the semester in regard to the course and their clients. It is assumed that students will be showing their ‘best’ work and their ‘worst’ work during practicum. Most likely, students will earn a failing grade if they engage in unethical behavior, fail to follow through on supervisor requirements, repeated failure to complete paperwork in a timely manner, or demonstrate problematic/inappropriate behavior in session or in supervision.

Rules for timely completion of Clinic responsibilities

Clinic Responsibility	Completion time
Clinic Treatment Notes	2 Working days following session
Intake Summaries	3 Working days following initial intake
Psychological Evaluation	1 Week following final testing session unless instructed by supervisor to complete sooner
Disposition Summary	1 Week following final session or supervisor says terminate - whichever occurs first
Organized Client File (All file materials are in correct section of file)	At all times!!!

Failure to complete clinic responsibilities in the appropriate time period will result in penalties set forth under a Three-strike system

STRIKES

- 1st Strike = Student warned and given one week to complete
- 2nd Strike = Student given three clinic service hours to complete
- 3rd Strike = The student’s unprofessional behavior will be reflected in any letter (internship, recommendation, scholarship, etc.) written on the student’s behalf