

Information about Supervising USU School Counseling Practicum Students

The Department of Psychology at Utah State University greatly appreciates your willingness to serve as a Practicum Supervisor for a student in our M.S. degree program in Psychology, School Counseling Specialization. We realize the impact that this supervision might have on your busy work schedule. Our faculty hopes that our students can provide you with some meaningful assistance in your professional activities. We also hope that guiding/directing the Practicum student will prove to be a pleasant and stimulating change of pace for you.

We ask that Supervisors discuss an initial Practicum Contract with our students which they will share with you. We also ask that you find ways to expose them to a wide range of Comprehensive Guidance activities, including the four main components of Responsive Services, Individual Planning, Guidance Curriculum and System Support. For example, if your Comprehensive Guidance program is in a year of USOE's required Interim or Formal Performance Review, the Practicum student will highly benefit from close involvement in preparation for this review.

Our Practicum students shall provide Supervisors with both the Practicum Contract (as mentioned above) and the Practicum Evaluation Forms that the Supervisor will complete at the end of the semester. On average it is expected that the student shall receive one hour of face-to-face supervision for every 15 hours of Practicum experience. It is important that students receive regular feedback about their work, addressing areas in which they are excelling and areas in which additional skills are needed.

USU's Professional School Counselor Education Program emphasizes the following:

- **Initiative and responsibility.** Practicum students should be looking for opportunities to enhance their school's Comprehensive Guidance program and be willing to share in the work of doing so. With minimal prompting, practicum students should show a willingness to expend the effort necessary to assess students' needs and execute activities and programs that meet those needs.
- **Responsiveness to Feedback.** We are also interested in the degree to which students are *open and willing to listen to constructive criticism* about their work and expect them to follow through on such criticism without excuses and/or defensive explanation.
- **Professional Identity.** Students are expected to write, speak and perform in ways that establish a firm foundation of professionalism. Our students' everyday behavior in the role of school counselor should establish a reputation of competence and professionalism with teachers, administrators, parents and students.
- **Ethical Behavior.** We expect that our students will *base all decisions on strong ethical principles* and engage in empirically-based best practices for school counselors.

We request that you be candid and direct in your supervisory feedback with your Practicum student. Practicum is a course that is the primary mechanism we have for identifying any problems that might surface for students (e.g., interpersonal skills, work habits, judgment.) Where appropriate, we need to quickly put in place remedial efforts with those students who exhibit problems. Please contact either one of us if you should have any questions or concerns at any time during your Practicum student's time at your school. With most sincere gratitude we thank you for supervising a USU School Counseling Practicum student.



Date: 12-8-08

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