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SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY METHODS

Psychology 587 Syllabus/Guidelines

Purpose

The school psychology methods (practicum) sequence is designed to further develop your psychoeducational assessment, consultation and intervention planning skills in contexts that will promote clarity of role definition.

Objectives

1. You will practice under supervision (university based and on-site based school psychologists) your assessment, consultation and intervention-related skills (counseling skills will be practiced in the counseling practica).
2. You will become increasingly familiar with school personnel and organizational characteristics and related community resources.
3. You will develop personal, professional and ethical qualities appropriate to the roles of school psychologists.

Placement Sequence

Second Semester (in the program)

Pre-school intervention center intervention program assistant (day-to-day organized program implementation)

Child Study Team re-evaluations (initially conducting intelligence assessments for CSTs but later in semester more comprehensive re-evaluation techniques)

Third Semester

Child Study Team comprehensive evaluations
Consultation with classroom teachers

Fourth Semester

Child Study Team comprehensive evaluations including pre-school handicapped, multiple handicapped and emotionally disturbed case studies

Consultation with classroom teachers and/or parents

Settings

Each student works in a pre-school setting and public school settings. Co-Teach, the University-based, behaviorally oriented, mixed handicapped and non-handicapped population, demonstration pre-school (or equivalent in a few instances) is used with all practicum students. Alternate sites are the Comprehensive Development Center and Head Start (both community based). Each student serves their practica in public elementary, middle and/or high school (at least two levels) settings.

Supervisors

On-site supervisors are experienced, certified school psychologists employed by schools or persons with at least a similar level of training appropriate to other agencies. Supervisors are selected/approved by the program director, who clarifies plans, expectancies, procedures and policies with each supervisor. Supervisors are selected/retained on the basis of their ability to provide qualified supervision and to act as appropriate mentors for students. Program faculty also provide weekly supervision of the work.

Requirements

1. You will carry out case study, intervention and consultation responsibilities defined by your supervisors.
2. You will attend weekly class meetings.
3. You will complete case study logs and consultation reports (see attached).
4. You will utilize the Methods/Internship Student Evaluation Form to obtain evaluative feedback from your on-site supervisor and discuss that information with your university-based supervisors (see attached).

Evaluation of Your Work

1. Each of your test protocols and written reports will be constructively evaluated by your on-site and campus supervisors.
2. Your pre-school program work will be evaluated by program personnel using their internal processes/criteria.

3. Case study, consultation and intervention development will be discussed and evaluated with your on-site and campus supervisors. Your responsibilities in this process will increase through the three-semester sequence.
4. Your CST presentation skills will be developed in class activities and will be directed and evaluated by your on-site supervisor.
5. Your awareness and use of school and community resources and organizational qualities will be evaluated in class discussions, in your written reports, and by your on-site supervisor.
6. Personal, professional and ethical qualities will be discussed in class and individually nurtured and evaluated by your on-site and campus supervisors.
7. Your developing skills as a school psychologist will be evaluated and discussed with you by your on-site supervisor using the Methods/Internship Student Evaluation Form. This form will be used throughout your three semesters of Methods and year of Internship supervision. Comparison of the evaluations will permit you and us to evaluate your progress in developing a full complement of professional competencies.