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PSYX 587.02: School Psychology Methods

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PSYX 587: School Psychology Methods- Section 02

Spring 2018

Course Location and Time

Skaggs 303

Thursday 12:30 pm – 2:20 pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jacqueline A. Brown, Ph.D., NCSP

Office: Skaggs 204

Email: Jacqueline.Brown@umontana.edu

Phone: 406-243-6883

Office hours: By appointment (send me an email to set up)

Course Description

This is a course for graduate students enrolled in the second year of the school psychology degree program. The school psychology methods practicum sequence is designed to develop psycho-educational assessment, consultation, intervention planning and implementation skills, and outcome evaluation in contexts that will promote clarity of role definition. Students learn to be problem solvers as advocates for children, families, teachers, and schools. The practicum experience provides the opportunity to apply professional skills in a supervised school-based setting. Onsite training will be specific to expectations for developing professional competency in the specific domains for school psychology practice as described in the Blueprint for Training-III, National Association of School Psychologists.

Second year students continue in a school-based practicum from the first semester with supervision provided by an experienced school psychologist. This provides a full school-year experience in one school setting with a school psychologist so that there is a full year perspective of professional flow in the schools and school climate. Students will engage in individual, group, and systems level assessment and consultation in conjunction with other coursework.

Learning Outcomes

Throughout this course, you will:

1. Practice under supervision at school-based site as a school psychologist to develop your assessment, consultation, data-based decision making, and intervention-related skills utilizing the Problem Solving Model (NASP Standard 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 2.9).
2. Become increasingly familiar with school personnel and organizational characteristics and related community resources (NASP Standard 2.6, 3.1).
3. Develop more deeply the personal, professional and ethical qualities appropriate to the roles of school psychologists (NASP Standard 1.3, 2.10, 3.1).

4. Develop through further experience, a knowledge and skill in working within the richly diverse environment that schools, children and their families represent (NASP Standards 1.2, 2.5, 2.8).
5. Further develop knowledge and skill in utilizing developmentally appropriate evidence-based best practice in assessment and intervention for exceptionalities and/or psychological disorders among children/youth (NASP Standards 2.4, 2.5, 2.7).
6. Develop parent-school consultation skills, learn and apply cross-cultural consultation skills to facilitate parent support and involvement while being sensitive to cultural factors, and gain a deeper insight into the perspective of a parent of a child with exceptionalities (NASP Standards 2.2, 2.5, 2.8, 2.11).
7. Develop critical knowledge in crisis prevention and intervention to ensure that you are equipped to help prevent and respond to school-based crises (NASP Standard 2.6).

Required Textbook

*Harrison, P. L. & Thomas, A. (Eds.). (2014). *Best practices in school psychology VI, Systems-Level Services* (6th ed.). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

*If you don't already own a personal copy from last year, you can borrow this book from the school psychology lab. You will only be needing it for one course reading.

Readings

The following readings will be required and provided to you in PDF format through Moodle. There may be additional readings assigned during the semester, but you will be provided with them in advance.

Borum, R., Cornell, D., Modzeleski, W., & Jimerson, S. (2010). What can be done about school shootings? A review of the evidence. *Educational Researcher*, 39, 27-37. doi: 10.3102/0013189X09357620

Brymer, M. J., Pynoos, R. S., Vivrette, R. L., & Taylor, M. A. (2012). Providing school crisis interventions. In S. E. Brock & S. R. Jimerson (Eds.), *Best Practices in School Crisis Prevention and Intervention* (2nd ed., pp. 317-336). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

Cornell, D., & Allen, K. (2011). Development, evaluation, and future directions of the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines. *Journal of School Violence*, 10, 88-106. doi: 10.1080/15388220.2010.519432

Eklund, K., & Bosworth, K., & Bauman, S. (2015). Promoting safe schools for all students. In K. Bosworth (Ed.), *Prevention Science in School Settings: Complex Relationships and Processes* (pp. 307-333). New York, New York: Springer Publishing.

Harpel, J. L., West, P., Jaffe, G., Amundson, D. (2011). After a suicide: A toolkit for schools. Retrieved from [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

Hart, S. R. (2012). Student suicide: Suicide postvention. In S. E. Brock & S. R. Jimerson (Eds.), *Best Practices in School Crisis Prevention and Intervention* (2nd ed., pp. 525-547). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

Heath, M. A., Leavy, D., Hansen, K., Ryan, K., Lawrence, L., & Sonntag, A. G. (2008). Coping with grief: Guidelines and resources for assisting children. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 43, 259-269.

Kosciw, J. G., Bartkiewicz, M., & Greytak, E. A. (2012). Promising strategies for prevention of the bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. *The Prevention Researcher*, 19, 10-13.

Selected Chapters (2, 3, & 5) from Martin (2005):

Martin, N. (2005). *A guide to collaboration for IEP teams*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co, Inc.

National Association of School Psychologists (2013). Conducting crisis exercises and drills: Guidelines for schools. Retrieved from [National Association of School Psychologists](#)

Noltemeyer, A. L., & Bush, K. R. (2013). Adversity and resilience: A synthesis of international research. *School Psychology International*, 34, 474-487. doi: 10.1177/0143034312472758

Pearrow, M. M., & Jacob, S. (2012). Legal and ethical considerations in crisis prevention and response in schools. In S. E. Brock & S. R. Jimerson (Eds.), *Best Practices in School Crisis Prevention and Intervention* (2nd ed., pp. 359-375). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

Roth, J. C. (2017). The importance of consultation in supporting bereaved students. In J. A. Brown, & S. R. Jimerson (Eds.), *Supporting Bereaved Students at School* (pp. 52-69). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Safe and Sound Schools (2016). Straight “A” safety improvement. The Toolkits: Assess, act, audit. Retrieved from [Safe and Sound Schools](#)

Taylor, M. A., Anderson, E. M., Bruguier Zimmerman, M. J. (2014). Suicide prevention in rural, tribal communities: The intersection of challenge and possibility. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*, 38, 87-97.

Recommended Resources

Additional helpful articles related to school-based crisis prevention and intervention can be found at the [NASP School Safety and Crisis Resources](#), [U.S. Department of Education](#), and [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) websites.

David-Ferdon, C. & Simon, T. R. (2014a). *Preventing youth violence: Opportunities for action*. Retrieved from [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

David-Ferdon, C. & Simon, T. R. (2014b). *Taking action to prevent youth violence: A companion guide to preventing youth violence: Opportunities for action*. Retrieved from [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Class Meeting Format

Throughout the course we will: (1) discuss a case presented and facilitated by one of your colleagues from their practicum site, (2) discuss and engage in class activities on specific seminar topics, with a focus on crisis prevention and intervention, (3) discuss relevant topics to support further professional development in your practicum, and (4) discuss legal, ethical and professional guidelines that guide your practice.

Practicum Seminar Participation

Attendance to seminar and to your practicum site is a *requirement* for your training as a school psychologist. If because of an emergency situation you cannot attend either class or your school-based practicum as scheduled, you must inform the instructor and your practicum site supervisor (if practicum is the issue) *beforehand*. In the event that you do miss a scheduled practicum, you will still be responsible for the time and material that is missed. There will be no exceptions.

Program Practica Placement Sequence

Second Year: First and Second Semester – 180 hours per semester

You will be involved in a variety of tasks, including:

- A. Child Study Team comprehensive evaluations; initial and re-evaluations.
- B. IEP intervention planning meetings.
- C. Consultation with classroom teachers (general and special)
- D. Consultation with parents; conjoint consultation between parents and teachers/school.
- E. Observations in structured and unstructured settings (e.g., playground, break time).
- F. Intervention for students in: (1) general education and (2) special education
- G. Program and/or intervention outcome evaluation.
- H. Participation/collaboration with school teams.
- I. Attendance to professional development opportunities as made available to you by your school practicum supervisor.

School Psychology Practica Settings

Each student works in a public school setting that offers diversity and appropriate training opportunities:

- Pre-approved elementary, middle and high schools, or private school settings.

- Program evaluation; extent of implementation of school-wide positive behavioral support programs in collaboration with local schools.

On-Site 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 UM School Psychology Program. Supervision plans, expectations, procedures and policies are clarified with each supervisor. Supervisors are selected and retained on the basis of their ability to provide quality supervision and to act as appropriate mentors for students. These highly qualified school psychologist supervisors understand their key role in your professional development.

Your instructor may visit your practicum site during the semester. Once placed at a practicum site, please provide your practicum work schedule for the semester to the instructor.

Course Requirements

1. Participation and Attendance (30 Points):

You are required to attend and actively participate in weekly practicum seminar and your practicum field site. Readings are provided for your preparation for seminar discussions and activities.

A special topic during this practicum will be *Crisis Prevention/Intervention in the Schools*. Readings, activities, and discussions will develop your awareness of a multitude of potential crisis situations you may experience in practice and will give you essential knowledge necessary to address these situations.

As part of your participation grade (**10 out of the 30 points**), you will be required to lead an informal discussion about an assigned reading (no PPT presentation is required). Within your discussion, you will be required to highlight key points of the article, focusing on critical considerations and applications for practice. This may include areas such as intervention, consultation, or assessment recommendations, special considerations (e.g., developmental, cultural, etc.), and prevention strategies, depending on the article. Your focus should not be on the background research presented in the article (unless there are critical facts that are useful to know), but instead on key practical applications. You will also be required to come up with one discussion question for the class, which will foster everyone's understanding of the topic and applications for school practice. Your brief discussion of the article (plus discussion question) will take **15 minutes**. ***Remember, please do not summarize the entire article- just highlight key practical applications.***

The second half of class will focus on discussing your cases and providing group supervision. Each student will be asked to bring a case to an assigned class, where you can obtain feedback from the instructor and other students (approximately **20 to 30 minutes** per case). Regardless of whether it is your week to discuss your case, please bring questions and/or reflections to class regarding your practicum work.

Practicum Goals and Self-Assessment/Reflection (30 Points)

At the beginning of the semester, you will document your specific learning goals (see Professional Goals form (5 points) posted on Moodle) and ways in which they will be achieved. You will discuss these goals with your university instructor during an individual supervision meeting at the beginning of the semester.

You will also have an individual supervision meeting with your university instructor during the middle of the semester to reflect upon your progress and identify any areas for improvement. Specific topics that need further development will also be identified during these meetings for discussion in practicum seminar.

Furthermore, you will reflect and write about your experience at your practicum site **at the end of the semester (20 points)**, related to specific areas that are outlined on the Practicum Reflections guideline. The university practicum supervisor will use these reflections as feedback about your development as a professional.

You will complete a practicum hourly log (5 points) to document your training experience. You will obtain your on-site supervisor's signature and submit your log to your instructor at the **end of the semester** when you submit your portfolio.

2. Intervention Report (100 Points)

You will conduct either an (a) academic, or (b) social/behavioral direct consultation using best practices in intervention. You will write-up a detailed report based on a single case for one of your interventions using the Intervention Report Case Study Grading Rubric, which is **posted on Moodle and is based on NSCP requirements**. **PLEASE NOTE** that the examples of Intervention Reports posted on Moodle are solely examples, as students often like some type of guidance. However, they are not perfect, so it **is critical that you follow the rubric**. You are also **required** to include metrics that document specific change in your intervention. For academic interventions, you will include Percent Change and Rate of Improvement (ROI). For behavioral interventions, you will include Percent Change and Visual Analysis. These metrics will be discussed further in class. This written intervention report should also be included in your Professional Portfolio at the end of the semester. **Note:** Please use Times New Roman, 12-point font, and APA format when appropriate. The report should be written using concise language with no grammatical or spelling errors. ***As always, please come to me if you are unclear or have any questions about your specific intervention or how to write it up, as I am also happy to help you one-on-one.***

3. Evaluation Report (100 Points)

You will conduct a comprehensive evaluation (initial or re-evaluation) of a student referred for special education and write a full psychoeducational evaluation report (blinded & de-identified). Your report will integrate information collected about the student's cognitive, academic, and social-emotional difficulties. It is important that you use professional writing in your report with minimal jargon, so that caregivers, teachers, and other professionals can easily understand it. **Please note:** A comprehensive parent interview must be included and written up in your report if you did not do this for the evaluation report you wrote during your first semester. ***You have the option to submit a rough draft of your report more than one week prior to the due date to obtain feedback prior to receiving a grade. A rubric for this report is posted on Moodle***

4. Crisis Multi-Tiered System Intervention and Assessment Sheet (20 Points)

You will each prepare a three tiered sheet briefly outlining interventions and assessments that can be used to support students at all levels in response to a specific type of crisis of your choice (e.g., school shooting, suicide, bullying, natural disaster, etc.). *You should also include relevant examples of family-school collaboration services at the systems level.* An example of what your sheet may look like is posted on Moodle, although I encourage you to be as creative as possible. You will share your sheet with each other so that everyone has a collection of tools to address specific crises. Please include the references you used with your assignment.

5. **Professional Portfolio (3-Point Rating Scale)**

You will complete a **Professional Portfolio** as evidence of your growth over the year in taking on the school psychologist's professional role. See the Practicum Portfolio Requirements document. Your evaluation and intervention reports need to be included in your Professional Portfolio. The Professional Portfolio will be evaluated for sufficient skills in place for an internship placement. The final Practicum Portfolio is due at the end of the semester.

6. **Clinical Evaluation (50 Points)**

Case evaluations, consultation and intervention development will be discussed and evaluated with your on-site and university practicum supervisor during one-on-one supervision meetings.

Furthermore, similar to your first semester, you will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Maintaining a professional demeanor and appearance
- Attendance and promptness at your practicum site
- Meeting deadlines and responsibilities
- Communicating effectively with your field and university supervisor.
- Collaborating and interacting effectively with caregivers, teachers, and other relevant professionals.
- Maintaining confidentiality of files and testing materials and protecting the confidentiality of those receiving services
- Participation in and openness to supervision

At the end of the semester, you will use the Practicum Performance Evaluation form, where you will obtain evaluative feedback from your on-site supervisor and discuss that information with your university-based supervisor. Your site supervisor will discuss the evaluation with you and submit it to the university supervisor. The evaluation will be used as evidence of your progress in the program. A copy will be provided to you for discussion with your supervisor and to retain in your professional portfolio. You are also expected to ***obtain feedback in an informal meeting during the middle of the semester***; however, are not required to have your supervisor complete a Practicum Performance Evaluation form.

At the end of the semester, you will also use a second form, the Practicum Student Consumer of Services Performance Evaluation, to obtain evaluative feedback from a consumer of your services during the semester. This person may be a general or special education teacher, a principal, a parent(s), etc., and should be someone who had the most experience with you in your role as a school psychologist in-training during the semester.

Submit the evaluation to your practicum supervisor for review. Please ensure that you use the proper form, as there are two separate forms for Education Specialist and Doctoral students. The consumer evaluation will be used as evidence of your progress in the program. A copy will be provided to you for discussion with your supervisor and to retain in your professional portfolio.

7. Other Specific Responsibilities

- a) Your Child Study Team (CST; now ER) presentation skills will be developed and evaluated by your on-site supervisor. You will be responsible for leading **at least** one ER team meeting this semester.
- b) Please write up a **one-page summary** of your involvement in **family-school collaboration** activities, which is to be included in your portfolio at the end of the semester.
- c) During the final class, all students will provide their colleagues and instructor with an update on their cases that they presented during their assigned case discussion throughout the year. This will include sharing any results and recommendations, along with any other relevant information, depending on the specific case. Furthermore, during this final class, there will be a “Hindsight is 20-20” discussion, where everyone reflects upon what they learned, what they would have done differently, and how they can use what they learned moving forward in their internship and beyond.

Course Grades

The points and percentages of the final grade for each assignment are as follows:

Points

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Participation and Attendance	30
Goals/Self-Reflection	30
Intervention Report	100
Assessment Report	100
Three Tiered Intervention Sheet	20
Clinical Evaluation	50
<u>Total</u>	<u>330</u>

Course grading

Grades are determined based on straight percentages and are as follows:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
94 – 100	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-

Percentage	Grade
67 – 69	D+
64 – 66	D
60 – 63	D-
0 – 59	F

Course Guidelines and Policies

Student Conduct Code

Students entering the field of school psychology are held to a high standard of academic and professional honesty and integrity. As a school psychologist in training, you represent the university and the field. It is therefore important to dress professionally and behave in a way that reflects your knowledge and expertise.

The University of Montana Student Conduct Code (SCC) should be reviewed, especially in regards to plagiarism. It is the policy of the SPSY program that plagiarism will result in an “F” for the course in which the academic violation occurs, as well as grounds for consideration of dismissal from the program. The UM administration states: “All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.” All students need to be familiar with the *Student Conduct Code*. *Please take care to acknowledge your sources, including the Internet, using APA Style.*

Attendance

Regular attendance and active engagement is required for all scheduled classes and practicum responsibilities. Students are responsible for information covered in lectures, handouts, discussions, and activities. Attendance is stressed because students will have opportunities to (a) improve their knowledge through discussions of critical topics and issues, (b) practice skills needed to engage in professional communication with colleagues and provide effective services to clients, (c) obtain information from lectures and presentations, (d) participate in activities, and (e) submit required assignments.

Please inform me prior to class if a late arrival or early departure from class is absolutely necessary. In the case of illness or absence (including religious observances), please send me an email and make arrangements before missing the class. For extended absences due to medical issues, documentation must be provided. Failure to do so may result in penalty. Absence for conferences is not automatically excused. You must be in good standing in the class and make arrangements for assignments before you leave.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices other than computers must be turned off and put away before class. The use of computers during class to take notes or use electronic articles and PowerPoint presentations is allowed. However, students may not use any form of social media on their computer while in class or use computers for other personal reasons unrelated to the class content. I will speak to you if I feel your use of computers is interfering with your learning or is a distraction to other students. Inappropriate use of computers will result in a reduction in your participation grade in this course.

Respect for Diversity and Appropriate Language

I am committed to fostering a class environment in which all people will be treated and will be expected to treat others respectfully. People with disabilities or other elements of diversity are first and foremost individual people who should be treated with respect. Language used in assignments and class discussions should be respectful and professional at all times. Please use ***“people first”*** language in speaking and writing about people with disabilities or other elements of diversity. For example, please avoid phrases such as “the handicapped,” “LD kid,” “autistic child” or other statements that emphasize the disability or other elements of diversity first, rather than the individual. Pejorative terms and threatening or harassing language have no place in a respectful professional discussion or in your assignments.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Assignment expectations

Students are expected to submit assignments at or before the assigned due date (no later than the end of class). Prior notification is required for excused or late assignments. Unexcused assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by a reduction of ***five points per calendar day*** late. It is the student’s responsibility to ask questions when information required in the assignments or discussed in class is unclear. There will be no make-up or extra-credit assignments.

The instructor **reserves the right to modify or substitute coursework**, including readings and assignments, during the course to enhance learning. These changes **will not result in a substantially increased workload or decreased opportunities to earn points, but will instead likely benefit students.**

Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to minor adjustments, as determined by the instructor.

Week	Date	Topics and Assignment Due	Required Readings
1	January 25	Introduction and Overview; Requirements Internship Interview Check-In and Questions; Group Supervision Schedule: a) Article Leaders b) Weekly Case Discussions c) First Individual Supervisions (bring goals) e) Obtain practicum schedules	None
2	February 1	Planning and Coordinating Meetings Guest Speaker: Dr. Linda Maass at 1:30 pm *Individual Supervision Meetings DUE: Practicum Goals (option to either submit final copy during individual supervision meeting when discussing goals or in class)	Martin (2005) Chapter 2, 3, & 5
3	February 8	School Safety: Overview Article Leader; Case Discussion (1)	Eklund, Bosworth, & Bauman (2015)*
4	February 15	NASP Convention- No Class	
5	February 22	Effective School Crisis Plans and Teams Guest Speakers: Phone Conversation with Current Interns Article Leader	NASP (2013)* Straight "A" Safety Improvement Toolkits (Safe and Sound Schools; 2016)
6	March 1	Threat Assessment Article Leader; Case Discussion (1)	Borum, Cornell, Modzeleski, & Jimerson (2010) Cornell & Allen (2011)*
7	March 8	School-Wide Response to Crises: Supporting Students, Teachers, and Parents Article Leader; Case Discussion (1)	Brymer, Prynoos, Vivrette, & Taylor (2012)* Pearrow & Jacob (2012)
Week	Date	Topics and Assignment Due	Required Readings

8	March 15	Grief Support: Individual and Group Interventions Article Leader; Case Discussion (1) DUE: Crisis Three Tiered Intervention/Assessment Sheet	Heath et al. (2008)* Roth (2017)
9	March 22	Risk and Resilience Article Leader; Case Discussion (1) *Mid-Semester Individual Supervision Meetings	Kosciw, Bartkiewicz, & Greytak (2012)* Noltemeyer & Bush (2013)
10	March 29	NO CLASS- Spring Break	
11	April 5	Check-In & Supervision Questions Address topics brought up during individual supervision that would benefit from further discussion	None Comprehensive Exams this Week
12	April 12	Special Crisis Topic: Suicide Prevention Case Discussion (1) DUE: Evaluation Report *Email Jacquie 1-2 questions for Camille	BP-VI (2014) Systems-Level Services Chapter 19 (p. 273-288) Taylor, Anderson, & Zimmerman (2014)
13	April 19	Special Crisis Topic: Suicide Intervention and Postvention Article Leader; Case Discussion (1)	After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools (2011) Hart (2012)*
14	April 26	Guest Speaker: Dr. Camille Barraclough on Suicide Intervention at 12:30 pm <i>(Send 1-2 questions in advance of lecture)</i> DUE: Intervention Report	None
Week	Date	Topics and Assignment Due	Required Readings
15	May 3	CASE REVIEWS & "Hindsight is 20-20" Discussion	None

		DUE: Professional Portfolios- Please add the following to your existing portfolios: End of Semester Practicum Reflection, One-page summary of your involvement in family-school collaboration activities, Practicum Log, Consumer of Services Performance, and End of Semester Practicum Performance Evaluation.	
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BP-VI= Best Practices in School Psychology VI

*Indicates readings assigned to a leader