PSY 662 PRACTICUM IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
Western Kentucky University
Class meets two hours per week plus one day/week in a school setting
Fall, 2014

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Office Hours: As posted/by appointment

Course Description:
Supervised practicum in schools. Field experiences in appropriate off-campus settings required. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to designated or assigned sites.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

General Goals of Practicum:
1) To apply skills learned through coursework in the school setting.

2) To gain a broad knowledge and awareness of regular education and special education roles, procedures, and functioning.

3) To continue to develop professional skills.

Course Expectations:
This is a continuation of your practicum experiences from your first year as a graduate student, but at a more applied level. You will work with a school psychologist practitioner on a weekly basis to learn more about the school psychologist's role and to apply learned skills. It is expected that you will keep me informed of your activities in the field (especially any problems that may arise). Your practicum is a time to engage in a broad range of roles and experiences. Details surrounding your practicum placement are provided in the Field Placement Practicum Handbook. The following is a list of experiences I would encourage each of you to engage in during your field placement experience. The list is by no means exhaustive.

1) Shadow/Work with/Observe the following people:
   School Psychologist (of course)
   Regular education classroom teachers
   Resource room teacher
   Self-contained classroom teacher
   Family resource personnel
   Speech & Language Pathologist
   OT/PT
   Parent of a child with a disability, if possible

2) Provide counseling services to a child or group of children, as appropriate under the supervision of the Psy 545 instructor.

3) Conduct assessments (and write reports) including:
   Standardized testing
   Functional behavior assessments
   Curriculum-Based Measurements
   Systematic classroom observations
   Behavior rating scales
Parent and teacher interviews

4) Attend ARC meetings.

Course Grade/Requirements:

Your field placement supervisor's evaluation and input will account for approximately 70% of your grade. The other 30% of your grade will be determined by the faculty supervisor. Thus, the primary weight of your grade will rest with how well you do in the field placement. The meetings you have with me will allow me to keep on top of everything you are doing as well as give all of you a chance to share experiences. Requirements for this course are as follows:

1) One school day per week in the field placement setting.
2) Signed log of all activities/time spent in practicum (minimum of 100 hours per semester required; 200+ hours required for the year)
3) Attendance at meetings with the University supervisor.
4) Present to the group, in a peer review fashion, cases (assessment, consultation, direct intervention, etc.) that you are working on during practicum.
5) Exposure to a variety of experiences in the school setting.
6) Positive evaluation from field placement supervisor.

Comments:

Your field placement supervisor is volunteering for the work they are doing. They receive no extra pay or benefits (e.g., load reduction) to spend the time they do with you. It is simply for the satisfaction of assisting in the training of a fellow professional. Thus, it is incumbent upon you to make it a satisfying experience for them. There are numerous ways to do this, including:

1) Be on time, always!
2) Act and dress professionally.
3) Be responsible for activities assigned to you by getting them done in a timely manner. (Use good time management practices.)
4) Be organized and prepared.
5) Let your supervisor know where you will be at all times.
6) Be flexible and adaptive. (Often, things come up for your supervisor that will require a change in plans - go with the flow.)
7) Volunteer to help out your supervisor with their responsibilities and referrals.
8) Display a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. The phone number is 745 5004.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.