Dear Student:

I am pleased that you are interested in completing the course PSY 390: Field Experience in Psychology. This course is intended for students who are interested in the helping or human service profession. This experience is intended to provide students with initial exposure to a professional work setting related to Psychology. Students will assist a professional (or several professionals) in the field to gain insight and experience which they will use to reflect on and relate to their academics and future career goals. Students will complete a minimum of 120 hours during the semester, or approximately 8 hours per week.

In addition to spending time at a placement site, students will also meet as a class. You will use this time to reflect on your experiences, learn professional skills, and complete various readings and activities to help connect all of your learning and continue your preparation as an emerging professional. Topics will include: professionalism, diversity and multiculturalism, ethics, careers in the human services profession, compassion fatigue and burnout, preparing for graduation and beyond, applying prior learning to issues at your placement, linking your degree and skills to future goals, and more.

In order to be enrolled in this course, you must complete the following steps:

Meet with your advisor to discuss the appropriateness and timeliness of the course, if necessary
Review the prerequisites for the course (12 hours in psychology completed, a 2.5 GPA in Psychology, completed application – see below)
Complete the brief application (the second page of this letter)
Return the application to Dr. Sarah Ochs via mailbox or in person (GRH 3025)
Dr. Ochs will review your application and then contact you to discuss placement options based on your identified interest areas, goals, and availability of sites
After this meeting, you will be enrolled in the course and will begin contacting your potential site(s), with guidance

Sometimes arranging a placement takes a little time – please initiate the above steps as soon as you decide you will be taking the course. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me directly on my office phone (270) 745-4414, by stopping by my office, or via email at Sarah.Ochs@wku.edu.

I look forward to having you join the class!

Dr. Sarah Ochs
Student Application
PSY 390-Field Experience in Psychology: Semester__________

NAME:_________________________________________  WKU ID:____________________________
ADDRESS:________________________________________
PHONE:________________________  E-MAIL: __________________________
MAJOR:_________________________________________  MINOR OR SECOND MAJOR:_________
ADVISOR:_______________________________________  G.P.A. TO DATE:_____________________
NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS COMPLETED:__________________________
EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION:__________________________

Psychology courses taken to date (list below or attach TopNet printout):

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FACULTY REFERENCES (Professor’s signature required)
Faculty signature below indicates a recommendation for this student to participate in PSY 390

1._________________________________________  Date _______________________

2._________________________________________  Date _______________________

Please describe the type of placement experience desired. If unknown, indicate desired population (adult, child, adolescent, clinical, nonclinical, individuals with disabilities), setting (residential, outpatient, business, nonprofit, educational, law enforcement, etc.) or service type (clinical, criminal justice, education, etc).

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________

STUDENT SIGNATURE:_________________________  DATE:_________________________

Return form to Dr. Sarah Ochs, Psychology Department, GRH 3025
Approved/Not Approved____________________  Registration Cleared__________________