

### OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM

This is a three semester sequence, beginning in the second semester of student's first year of doctoral studies. It continues throughout the Fall and Spring semesters of second year of coursework for a total of three semesters.

Students register for 150 hours for practicum which includes 30 hours of Advanced Supervision conducted at GSAPP, Rutgers University. Students are responsible for tracking all of their hours and activities so that both GSAPP and their practicum supervisors can review these hours.

The overarching goal is to familiarize student with the CST and role of school psychologist. Exposure to non-CST roles for school psychologists is possible, but must occur in conjunction to the CST role, in order to meet NJ Dept. of Ed certification requirements.

#### First Semester of Program Courses:

- Cognitive Assessment (WJ, WISC are emphasized w/secondary emphasis on WIPPSI and WAIS, possibly SB)
- Observation and Interview (students learn basic clinical interviewing skills with children)
- Introduction to School Psychology (students learn NJAC 6A:14)
- Adult Psychopathology (DSM-focused)
- Human Development
- Theoretical Foundations (CBT, psychodynamic, and systems)

#### Second Semester of Courses:

- Behavioral Assessment (BASC, Vineland, Connors, FBA)
- Personality Assessment (ASEBA, CDI, Beck Youth Inventory, Reynolds Adolescent Depression Scale, Trauma Symptom Checklist, Projective Drawings, Sentence Completion, Storytelling (TAT, CAT, Roberts-II, TEMAS)
- Child Psychopathology (DSM-focused)
- Theoretical Foundations

#### Related Goals of First Semester of Practicum

- Learn about the culture of a district through some time spent observing school psychologists/supervisor and other CST personnel in meetings, conducting testing, writing IEPs, etc.

However, observation should not be the sole activity of the first semester, given the coursework students have had

- Conduct (either in-part, or whole, depending upon appropriateness of case) 1-2 cognitive assessments
- Conduct (either in part, or whole) 1-2 social-emotional assessments involving behavioral/objective and projective assessments
- Conduct 1 FBA
- Observe at least 4 CST meetings such as: eligibility meetings, initial identification meetings, IEP revisions, etc.

- Observe 1-2 I&RS meeting/s
- Individual and/or group counseling, as appropriate

## Second Year Coursework:

### Fall Semester:

- Consultation Methods (Behavioral consultation)
- Statistics
- Diversity (Counseling case)
- Community Psychology

### Spring Semester:

- Psychological Interventions (Evidence Based-School Based Interventions)
- Advanced Statistics
- Psychoeducational Foundations of Learning Disabilities (LD testing case)

## Related Goals of Second Year of Practicum:

- In depth exposure to and participation in CST process, as appropriate: for example, eligibility meetings, IEP writing (at least in part), giving feedback to parents, manifestation determination, out of district visits
- Carry 3-4 psychological testing cases which include cognitive testing and social-emotional-behavioral assessment (either in part or the entire case, as deemed appropriate by supervisor)
- If permitted by district LDTC, conduct 1 psychoeducational evaluation (learning/achievement evaluation) during Spring semester of second year
- Conduct an evidence-based intervention, such as individual/group counseling, classroom-based program (at least 2 cases)
- Exposure to crisis intervention
- Behavioral observation and/or FBA
- Provide teacher consultation
- Participate in I&RS and/or subsequent intervention activities

## Responsibilities of Supervisor:

- Weekly supervision at dedicated time (1 hour)
- Practicum Contract
- Written evaluation of student:
  - First semester: (May-June) Narrative evaluation
  - Second of semester (December) Narrative evaluation
  - Third semester (may-June): GSAPP School Psychology Practicum Competency ratings (may also be used for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester but not required)

## Responsibilities of Student:

- Completion of all required practicum hours per semester
- Documentation of hours and activities (this can include using time2track)
- Schedule in advance with supervisor, including any changes. Attendance is based on SCHOOL DISTRICT calendar, not Rutgers calendar. Practicum continues into June
- Professional demeanor including dress, responsiveness to supervision, promptness