

Definitions of Practicum/Internship Hours

Practicum and internship experiences involve an active learning process in which students develop counseling skills in a progressive manner. Students may begin the process on site through training and observation. In time, the goal is to actively apply counseling skills with clients.

If you are having difficulty meeting the requirements for practicum or internship, please first consult your site supervisor with your concerns. If the issue is not resolved, you may consult your Chatham University practicum or internship class supervisor. Your supervisor may then discuss the situation with your site supervisor or other faculty. We will support you as a student in this program and it is our hope that you will have a positive learning experience.

1. Direct Contact Hours –Direct contact hours must include ongoing individual, family, and/or group therapy. The term ongoing is used to define counseling relationships in which the student has the opportunity to meet with clients on more than one, and typically several occasions or weekly appointments. Direct contact may also include participating in sessions with supervisors, or other professional counselors on site, providing that the student has the opportunity or possibility of interacting with the client. Direct hours may also include intakes and assessment; however field placement sites that do not provide or allow for student participation in ONGOING counseling are not considered to be appropriate for Practicum. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they will indeed have the opportunity to engage in appropriate counseling activities. Any questions regarding this issue should be directed to the Field Placement Coordinator.

2. Non-Direct Hours Include the Following:

Supervision, session observation behind a mirror without the possibility of contact with the client, Chatham supervision, Treatment Team Supervision and Consultations Regarding Clients

Staff Meetings, Research and Preparation, Trainings, and Paper Work are all considered to be non-direct hours. Students enrolled in Practicum may not count the hours spent in supervision at Chatham University against the 7 (Fall & Spring) or 9 (Summer) hours they must be at their Field Placement Site.