

## **OVERVIEW OF MSCP FIELD PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**Practicum** (PSY 682) is designed as a shorter-term introduction into actual counseling. This is a three-credit course that entails the following:

- A minimum of 120 clock hours at the counseling site, of which 40 hours must be in direct contact with clients
- One hour of weekly supervision with the on-site supervisor
- 150 minutes of group supervision (class) per week
  - Group supervision provided at Chatham University may be counted toward the 120 hour total as “in-direct” hours.
  - Students are expected to be at their site a minimum of 7-hours per week even if this will result in the completion of more than the minimum 120 hours

**Supervised Internship I/II** (PSY 685/686) is designed as a longer-term, more extensive professional experience for students. Each internship is a three-credit course that includes the following:

- A minimum of 300 clock hours at the counseling site, of which 120 hours must be in direct contact with clients
- One hour of weekly supervision with the on-site supervisor
- 90 minutes of group supervision (class) per week
  - Group supervision provided at Chatham University may be counted toward the 300 hour total.

## **PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP REQUIRMENTS**

The field placement courses (Practicum, Supervised Internship I, & Supervised Internship II) are offered to students in the concluding phase of their studies. By the time students are ready to enroll in a field placement course, they will have taken a minimum of 21 graduate credits in Counseling Psychology. Students are encouraged, but not required, to complete their Practicum and Internships at the same site.

### **Practicum**

Practicum (PSY 682) is a three (3) semester-hour course taken after most prerequisites, including seven specific prerequisite courses have been completed. Exceptions may be granted by the MSCP faculty for students who are taking certain courses concurrently with the practicum or if the student’s advisor/MSCP faculty have granted special permission. The following procedures are required to document completion of field placement requirements. Practicum instructors may have additional course requirements.

Practicum students will complete a minimum of 120 hours of field experience at the site, of which at least 40 hours must be in direct contact service. This may include any activity where there is direct contact with clients including individual and group counseling, assessment and crisis intervention. The remaining 80 hours may be in other counseling related activities including supervision, consultation, paperwork, report writing, program development, out-reach and community education services.

The student will receive supervision from both site and faculty supervisors. The site supervisor will provide a minimum of 1-hour of face-to-face supervision every week of the practicum experience. In order to complete the Practicum students are required to enroll in PSY 682 Practicum in which they will receive weekly group supervision with the faculty supervisor and other practicum students. Although hours in group supervision at Chatham University can be counted toward the final number of completed indirect hours, it is the expectation that students will spend at least 7 (Fall & Spring semesters) or 9 (Summer semester) hours at the site each week.

At the beginning of the practicum, the **MSCP Practicum/Internship Contract (page 18-19)** should be completed by the faculty and site supervisors. Note: This contract is not the same as the *Affiliation Agreement* between Chatham University and the Site. The student will give his or her faculty supervisor the original agreement and provide a copy to the site supervisor. Additionally, the practicum student is encouraged to share a copy of the **MSCP Supervisor Handout (page 17)** with the site supervisor describing supervisory expectations.

The site supervisor and practicum student should work together to secure **Consent for Counseling Services (page 21)** in order for the student to begin taping counseling sessions. Individual Practicum instructors will specify specific requirements. Some sites may not permit taping of sessions.

Practicum students are required to keep a **MSCP Practicum/Internship Weekly Time Log (page 22)**. This form is used to document the student's successful completion of field placement requirements. *Site supervisor signatures are required on these forms for hours to count toward program completion.*

The faculty supervisor is expected to assist the practicum student in group supervision with other counseling practicum students, to critique audio or video counseling tapes, consult with the site supervisor about the student's progress, assure that all required field experience forms are submitted, assure that the student completes all practicum requirements and submit grades for the student with the Registrar by the final examination week.

Grades for practicum are on a Pass/Fail basis. A grade of **P** indicates that in addition to completing all course requirements in a timely and professional manner, the student has demonstrated strong counseling skills, above average standards of professional and personal behavior, a willingness to learn and a commitment to the counseling profession are demonstrated. A grade of **F** will be awarded when the requirements have not been accomplished in an acceptable and timely manner. The faculty supervisor in consultation with the site supervisor assigns grades.

### **Internships**

The internships are the final and most comprehensive field-based experiences in the counseling psychology program. They are taken after successful completion of the practicum in either a one or two consecutive semester timeframe. **Supervised Internship I (PSY 585)** and **Supervised Internship II (PSY 586)** each require 300 clock hours of direct/indirect client contact and each is a 3 credit-hour course. Of the 300 hours, 120 hours are direct service contact hours with clients through individual and group counseling, intake and assessment, etc. The remaining 180 hours are spent in other counseling-related activities at the site.

The student will receive supervision from site and faculty supervisors. The site supervisor will provide 1- hour of face-to-face supervision every week of the internship experience. Students are required to participate in weekly group supervision sessions with the faculty

supervisor and other internship students. Hours from both individual and group supervision count as indirect hours.

At the beginning of the internship, the **MSCP Practicum/Internship Contract (pages 18-19)** should be completed by the faculty and site supervisors. The student will give his or her faculty supervisor the original agreement and provide a copy to the site supervisor. Additionally, the practicum student is encouraged to share a copy of the **MSCP Supervisor Handout (page 17)** with the site supervisor describing supervisory expectations.

Internship students are required to keep a **MSCP Practicum/Internship Time Weekly Log (pages 22)**. This form is used to document the student's successful completion of field placement requirements. *Site supervisor signatures are required on these forms for hours to count toward program completion.*

The faculty supervisor is expected to assist the internship student in group supervision with counseling psychology internship students, to critique audio or video counseling tapes, consult with the site supervisor about the student's progress, assure that all required field experience forms are submitted, assure that student completes all internship requirements and submit grades for the student with the Registrar by the final examination week.

Grades for internship are on a Pass/Fail basis. A grade of **P** indicates that in addition to completing all course requirements in a timely and professional manner, the student has demonstrated strong counseling skills, above average standards of professional and personal behavior, a willingness to learn and a commitment to the counseling profession are demonstrated. A grade of **F** will be awarded when the requirements have not been accomplished in an acceptable and timely manner. The faculty supervisor in consultation with the site supervisor assigns grades.