

Syllabus: PSYC 6312- Practicum with Underserved Populations

Course Term: Spring 2025

Meeting Time and Format: Wednesday 5:00pm-7:45pm.

Instructor Information: Dennis Combs, PhD, LP Texas #33687; Health Service Psychologist

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Required Texts: None. Articles and other readings offered throughout the course will be provided

Grading Scale: CR/NCR /IP only

Course Catalogue Description:

Supervised experience in a setting in which psychological or counseling services are provided to underserved populations such as veterans, rural populations, or the geriatric population.

Course includes on-campus small group supervision meetings. Students must complete a supervised practicum as part of their degree completion. This practicum experience is necessary in order to meet the established criteria for state licensing requirements. The practicum experience is designed as a psychology course at UT Tyler but is conducted off-site under the supervision of a qualified licensed psychologist at external settings. Practicum experience is usually conducted at local mental health centers, hospitals, or clinics but may be done at any setting in which supervised mental health services can be provided.

Course Requirements:

Doctoral students are expected to obtain **200 hours** of practicum experience per semester in practicum, and 100 of those hours must be direct service hours. The practicum experience is designed as a psychology course at UT Tyler but much of the experience is obtained off-site under the supervision of a qualified licensed professional at external settings. Practicum experience is conducted at local mental health centers, hospitals, or clinics but may be done at any setting in which supervised mental health services can be provided. Each student may choose a practicum experience with approval from the practicum instructor.

Dates of training:

Client services must not begin until the first day of the semester for which the student is registered for practicum, and services may not continue after the end of the semester unless the student takes an Incomplete or In Progress in the course.

Tracking hours:

Time2Track is the online software program used by internship sites to track clinical hours. This is the recommended approach for tracking your training experiences.

Students must keep a log of practicum hours detailed in terms of specific content and identified as direct and indirect hours. **At the end of the semester students must get the site supervisor(s) to verify their hours by signing off on the log.** Clinical Doctoral students are expected to accrue a minimum of 200

total practicum hours per course (i.e. PSYC 5396, PSYC 5397, PSYC 6312), and 100 have to be direct hours.

Insurance:

Students must obtain professional liability insurance before practicum is started. Students should have insurance already from previous practicum placements. Students must turn in a copy of a document showing a policy is in force for the semester.

Attendance and Participation:

This practicum seminar requires participation, discussion, consultation, and involvement from students in order to facilitate professional as well as clinical skill development. It is expected that students will actively participate in the various learning activities and remain engaged throughout the course. Please communicate absences with instructor as early as feasible.

Evaluation and Grading:

- a) Observation and discussion of experience with supervisor; may include maintenance of appropriate case notes, videotaping of therapy sessions.
- b) A letter of agreement from the on-site supervisor co-signed by the student will be sent to UT Tyler practicum supervisor at the start of the practicum. It will specify the hours to be fulfilled, the charted hours to be kept by the student, and information about the type of experiences in which the student will participate. The supervisor must supervise the student face-to-face at least one hour a week.
- c) Midway through the practicum, the site supervisor will be asked to complete a SCSE form and submit it to the practicum instructor. Each student will also complete a SCSE form on self and submit the form to the instructor.
- d) At the end of the practicum, the site supervisor will be asked to complete a SCSE form and submit it to the practicum instructor. Each student will also complete a SCSE form on self and submit the form to the instructor.
- e) Each student will be expected to submit a treatment or assessment case report for one client. If allowed by the site, a videotape of a therapy or assessment session should be included. The student will also present one case to the class for discussion and instructor review/evaluation.
- f) Presentation and discuss a case consultation project from the practicum site. There is a scoring rubric to used for this assignment.
- g) To receive CR grade (credit for the course), students must: a. accumulate a minimum of 200 on-site hours, 100 of those hours must be direct; b. receive SCSE ratings that average at least "Meets Expectations" on each skill set with no rating of "Does Not At All Meet Expectations;" c. receive an overall recommendation for a CR grade from the site supervisor and the practicum instructor; d. attend practicum meetings unless alternative arrangements are made with instructor and fellow graduate students, and e) complete the consultation assignment with a rating of at least "Meets Expectations" or higher.

Teaching Strategies:

- I. **On-site experience:** Students will spend at least 17 hour/week at their approved site while engaging in psychotherapy with individuals, couples, families, or groups; assessment; and other professional activities associated with mental health services at their site.
- II. **On-site individual supervision:** Students will receive at least one clock hour per week of one-to-one, face-to-face supervision with their site supervisor. **The student must be directly observed by the supervisor at least 1 time during the semester. Supervisors must be licensed psychologists (LP) in Texas.** If your supervisor is not a LP, you will be supervised by the practicum instructor (Dr. Combs) during class time.
- III. **In-class small group supervision:** All 6312 students will participate in on-campus or virtual small group supervision with the course instructor and other enrolled students. Groups will meet regularly throughout the semester, and attendance is expected. During the small group supervision, students will discuss their on-site activities, present clients with whom they are working in order to facilitate group learning and to gain feedback, and address specific topics and/or issues pertaining to their work at local sites. The group discussions will also allow time for experiential exercises such as role-playing. This small group supervision is supplemental to the on-site individual supervision. Per UT System requirements we will meet on our assigned final exam day.
- IV. **Special topic lectures, guest speakers, and in class activities:** Instructor will provide special topic presentations and activities throughout the term regarding underserved populations to facilitate professional, clinical, and academic development. They are meant to incorporate student participation, discussion, and other interactive learning experiences.

Client Case Presentations:

Each 6312 student is expected to present 1 case for discussion during the semester and actual clinician/client interaction content must accompany the presentation. The presentation should include clinician/client interaction content for group discussion and learning.

The format for the presentations should be as follows:

- Total presentation time should be 30 minutes. Following suggestions for time are approximate
- The first 5 minutes should be background of the case
- The next 5 minutes should be Case Formulation and Differential Diagnosis
- The next 5 minutes should be Treatment/Assessment methods and rationale for the methods
- The next 10 minutes should summarize outcomes (treatment response or recommendations), obstacles to services encountered, ethical considerations, and any diversity issues
- The last 5 minutes will be for group discussions and questions to the presenter

Please utilize a PowerPoint (or similar format) presentation to aid conveyance of information. Please put a lot of thought and effort for a professional presentation. These presentations are developmental opportunities for the presenter and the students in the class. These case presentations facilitate learning opportunities and not meant to be punitive or critical in nature.

Treatment and Assessment Case Report:

Students in 6312 will complete 1 case report. Each report will be either a treatment plan with summary report, or an assessment report.

Consultation Project Planning:

Students will present on a consultation activity during their practicum training in the SPRING 2025 semester and work will be conducted in the Fall on the plan and arrangements for this project. This can be a program level consultation, peer consultation, or a clinical case consultation. Please refer to the Consultation project scoring rubric which describes the domains for this activity. Further details will be provided in class.

OR

The group can decide to do a community intervention project/event for their consultation assignment. The group will decide what kind of project would benefit the community, conduct a needs assessment, plan the intervention, and collect outcome data with presentation of results. Each student will prepare and be graded individually on their paper and project paper. This falls under community consultation. For example the group could design a presentation or workshop on working with impoverished MH clients and present to community members.

Topics Outline and Calendar (Some details are subject to change and will be communicated)

Class dates	Assignments/Topic
Class 1 (1/15/2025)	Introduction/Assignments (submit proof of insurance, Practicum Agreement Form signed by all parties)
Class 2 1/22/2025)	Professionalism and Supervision
Class 3 (1/29/2025)	Article Discussion Student #1 and #2 Special Topic Lectures/Check in/Case Consultation
Class 4 (2/12/2025)	Article Discussion Student #3 and #4 Special Topic Lectures/Check in/Case Consultation
Class 5 (2/26/2025)	Case Presentations #1 and #2 Reports/Project Reports
Class 6 (3/5/2025)	Article Discussion Student #5 Case Presentations/Reports/Project Reports; Mid-term Evals due
Class 7 (3/29/2025)	Case Presentations #3 and #4 Special Topic Lectures/Check in/Case Consultation
Class 8 (4/9/2025)	Case Presentations #5 Due: Therapy Report/Assessment Reports- All Students
Class 9 (4/23/2025)	Consultation Project Reports and Presentations
Class 10 (4/30/2025)	Due: Site Evaluations, SCSE Self and Supervisor Rating Forms, Exit Survey