

Independent Study / PSYC 6391.560
Summer 2025; Virtual

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Student will review literature on a topic relevant to rural mental healthcare.

Title of Proposal- Personality Disorder (PD) in Rural Environments: Description of precipitating factors and proposals to improve community healthcare for PD treatment in rural areas.

Abstract:

Although personality disorder occurs at approximately the same rate in United States Urban and United States rural populations (Forrest et al., 2023), symptom severity for other psychological categories is higher in US rural populations than in US Urban populations (Forrest et al., 2023). Additionally, treatment availability and treatment seeking across all psychological disorders are both lower in US Rural populations than in US Urban populations (Forrest et al., 2023). Although there is a lack of information regarding the effect of rural and urban cultural factors on the development of PDs in the US, previous studies indicate that personality disorder develops differently in collectivist societies than in individualist societies (Ronningstam et al., 2018), a distinction that is contextually a factor in rural and urban cultures (Vandello & Cohen, 1999). Not enough is known about risk and resiliency factors for the development of personality disorders in rural environments. The proposed independent study project would 1.) explore risk and resiliency factors for the development of personality disorder in rural populations and 2.) explore a positively framed community wellness program to improve outcomes for PD in rural populations.

Course Curriculum

The student will read and summarize 3 peer reviewed journal articles each week and submit these findings to the course instructor Bradley Green. Additionally, the student will submit a 5 page summary of risk and resiliency factors for PD in rural population at week 7 of the semester and an additional 5 page proposal of how to address an improvement through community wellness at week 14 of the semester. The summary will serve as rationale for empirically examining resiliency factors in rural populations.