
Educational Psychology Doctoral Practicum Guidelines

Doctoral emphases in Counseling Psychology and School Psychology require several practica experiences which are a vital and necessary aspect of professional training. The field experiences at NAU are designed to be in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) standards. Details for the Counseling Psychology practica experiences are outlined below.

Practicum Experiences in Counseling Psychology

On-Site Practicum Experiences: Students who have not had a counseling practicum training in their master's program are required to complete the beginning sequence of practicum training in therapeutic practice, prior to beginning their doctoral practicum sequence. They must complete any deficiencies in theoretical courses (i.e., EPS 601-Theories of Counseling), and EPS 660 (Counseling Processes) and EPS 692-(Counseling Practicum). Other courses that may need to be completed will be determined in consultation with your advisor. Students then complete two semesters (6 credits of EPS 740) of doctoral practicum. The first 150-hour doctoral practicum is conducted in the practicum laboratory in the College of Education under the supervision of a full-time core faculty in Counseling Psychology who is also a licensed psychologist. As such, this setting is very conducive to training and class size is limited to no more than 5-6 students to provide adequate supervision, which is typically one hour of individual supervision and 1½ hours of group supervision each week. Students obtain a wide range of training and educational experiences as this lab serves traditional college students as well as community members. Students provide individual, group, child, and family counseling as well as psychological assessments utilizing empirically supported intervention procedures.

Off-Site Practicum Experiences: The second practicum **EPS 740: Doctoral Practicum in Professional Practice** (second 3 of 6 hours) is conducted at an approved University site clearly committed to training. Coordination of this experience is facilitated by the Training Director and the doctoral practicum faculty. Practicum sites have included the Guidance Center, the NAU Counseling Center, the Flagstaff Medical Center, and the Rose Psychological Evaluation and Psychological Services. Students receive supervision on-site by licensed psychologists who are well-oriented to the training program and its requirements.

Doctoral Supervision Practicum: Finally, students complete a class **EPS 750: Counseling Supervision** (3 hours) where they are required to provide supervision to Counseling masters' students in a beginning practicum. Students serving as doctoral supervisors in turn receive supervision from a faculty member who is also a licensed psychologist. Students meet regularly in group supervision to discuss supervision experiences. Doctoral supervisors provide supervision to a minimum of 4 students or supervise 2 students and assist in supervising students in the pre-practicum class (EPS 660-Counseling Processes) or the Group Counseling class (EPS 661-Group Processes).

Additional Experiences: If students need or desire additional practicum training, they are encouraged to complete fieldwork experiences (EPS 608) in a clinical setting or additional doctoral practicum hours (EPS 740). These must be discussed with the training director and must meet the supervision criteria specified under practicum experiences. In addition, a faculty member must be designated as university supervisor for these experiences.

Documentation of Practicum Experiences: Students complete a practicum log for each experience and their competence and quality of performance in practicum are evaluated by the student's direct supervisor. Areas of evaluation include psychotherapeutic skills, psychological assessment, initial assessment, intervention and treatment planning, consultation and community education, cultural and diversity issues, supervision, ethics, legal standards and responsibilities, report writing and record-keeping, and work skills. Copies of completed practicum forms and logs are retained in the student's file in the Department office. Evaluation of students in the second doctoral practicum conducted off-site is done jointly by the University faculty supervisor and the on-site supervisor. All of the on-site practicum experiences have a group supervision component where students meet with their supervisor and other students in the class to discuss clinical cases and make case presentations. Practicum experiences completed at sites other than the COE Practicum Lab have forums for the discussion of practicum experiences through staff meetings, case conferences, and group supervision.