

University of Southern Maine
Department of Human Resource Development
School Psychology Program
SPY 693: School Psychology Practicum 1

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Course overview:

The 300 clock hour Practicum 1 is an introductory supervised experience within a public school. Practicum 1 provides the student with introductory experiences in the culture and systems of school settings, instructional methods and materials, and school psychology practices. Students in the School Psychology Program must complete 3 credits of SPY 693 during the first 2 years in the Program, typically completing one credit per semester. The student does this on an individualized basis under the supervision of one of the core School Psychology Program faculty. The faculty member works individually with the student to plan and complete a sequence of activities representing school psychology practices. Students are encouraged to sign up for Practicum 1 credits with 3 different faculty members to gain exposure to a variety of school psychology practices.

Connections to SEHD Core Values:

1. *Democracy* – to enact and elicit inclusive dialogue, freedom of expression, and participatory decision-making that includes respect for and consideration of multiple views and perspectives within the best practices and ethics of school psychology.
2. *Civility and Caring* – to attend to the health of our learning and working communities through maintaining constructive communication, protecting individual dignity, and exhibiting empathy, compassion, and openness in all aspects of school psychology practice.
3. *Equity and Diversity* – to seek understanding about, engage inclusively with, and foster the voice and visibility of individuals of all identity groups and perspectives participating in school psychology practice.
4. *Social Justice* – to speak for and empower people who are disenfranchised and work towards enactment of just and ethical practices in school psychology within a more just society.
5. *Ethical practice* –to engage in and insist on the highest level of professional practice of school psychology, including the implementation and use of APA and NASP ethical guidelines and practices.
6. *Scholarship* – to gain, create, teach, and apply knowledge and skills using methods of research and inquiry that reflect the diverse range of accepted practices within our various academic and professional disciplines and which incorporate the most recent body of scientific findings related to school psychology practice.
7. *Professional Learning and Continuous Improvement* – to engage ourselves and our various external partners as learners in our respective fields, use formative feedback, and adjust our practices for mutual and continuing professional growth and for the embodiment of just and equitable best practices in school psychology.

Course Outcomes:

The student will develop competency in:

1. identifying the operational procedures of public school systems and settings;
2. identifying school-level support services that can be used by students, teachers, family members, and others who are concerned about student welfare;
3. observing and documenting day-to-day activities of one or more school psychology personnel;
4. how school psychology practices differ across different settings;
5. relating practicum learning experiences with classroom assignments and activities;
6. recording all practicum activities in relation to typical school psychology practices.

Note about practicum supervision:

There may be situations in which the practicum student requests placement at a clinical site (e.g., school, agency, clinic) with which a USM School Psychology Faculty member is affiliated. In these cases, the USM faculty member may serve as the site supervisor, and additional supervision will be provided by a second USM faculty

member who is not affiliated with the site. The second USM faculty member will offer the supervision services on a no-load and no-overload basis (i.e., pro-bono).

Course materials:

Course web site on the Blackboard courseware system: www.courses.maine.edu

The following texts are available from the University of Southern Maine Portland Bookstore, from book websites, or from the publisher:

Required:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). Washington DC: Author.

Special Needs:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Also make an appointment with the Office of Support for Students with Disabilities at 780-4706.

Assessment of Student Achievement:

All assignments, except where noted, should be typed, double-spaced, and written according to the guidelines of the American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 6th Edition. All assignments are due on the dates indicated on the syllabus or as indicated by the instructor. Late assignments will not be eligible for full credit and one point will be deducted from the total points awarded for each day late, unless the student has made arrangements with the instructor to turn in the assignment at a later time. Typically, late assignments will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. This course is graded Pass/Fail according to how many points a student earns. Students must earn at least 800 points to pass the class. In accordance with University of Southern Maine policies, graduate students who earn less than 80% of the points for this course will fail and be required to take it again.

Emergency and weather closing procedures

If students need to know whether the University campuses are open, and, if closed, when they will re-open can be obtained from the USM Storm Line at 207-780-4800.

Course Activities and Assignments

This course is self-designed, based on the goal of providing students with exposure to the typical activities of a school psychologists. The primary activities include shadowing school psychologist and related school personnel, and observing every day school activities.

1. **Practicum Contract and MOU.** (100 point). Students are responsible for getting the appropriate forms to set up the practicum signed and submitted to the instructor. Two forms are required. The Practicum Contract (Form P-1) must be signed by the Superintendent of the district or site of the practicum, The Director of the School of Education and Human Development, and USM Provost. The Practicum MOU (form P-2) must be signed by the supervising school psychologist, the student, and Program Coordinator.

Scoring rubric for practicum contract and MOU

COMPONENT	POINTS
Practicum Contract has all correct signatures and is submitted by the end of the second week of the semester; if more than one student is completing a practicum at the same site, one contract can be signed and copies made for each student. Each student must submit a copy of the completed contract.	50
Practicum MOU is filled out entirely and has all correct signatures and is submitted by the end of the second week of the semester	50
TOTAL	100

2. **Practicum Hours Log.** (500 points). All students are expected to record their weekly practicum hours using the online form available on the School Psychology website and in the Psy.D. Program Handbook (Form P-3). Hours are recorded according to specific practice categories. Students must complete at least 100 hours for every 1 credit of practicum. Supervision hours count toward practicum hours. Activities that students might want to observe during Practicum 1 are:

- General education instruction
- Special education instruction
- Related services by occupational, physical, or speech therapists
- Team meetings (RTI, IEP, etc)
- Faculty meetings
- Professional development programs
- Interviews with school personnel
- Bus arrival
- Bus departure
- Assemblies or special events

Scoring rubric for practicum hours log

COMPONENT	POINTS
Log includes some hours for every week of the semester	300
Hours are entered by category and show a distribution of time across different activities	100
Hours are totaled by category and show the total for each area	100
TOTAL	500

3. **Practicum Hours Verification Form.** (100 points) At the end of each semester of practicum, students will complete Form P-4 found in the Psy.D. Program Handbook. This form serves as an affidavit attesting that the student actually completed all claimed hours.

Scoring rubric for practicum hours verification form

COMPONENT	POINTS
Verification is completed entirely with original signatures and submitted by the last day of the semester	100
TOTAL	100

4. **Curriculum Vita** (100 points). Students will create and/or update a curriculum vita (CV) in the format typical for practicing school psychologists. This CV will include past work experience related to school psychology as well as practicum and related experiences

Scoring rubric for CV

COMPONENT	POINTS
The CV has the following sections: Education, Experience, Publications, Presentations, and Credentials	50
The CV is well organized and entries follow the most current version of the APA manual of style	50
TOTAL	100

5. **Practicum Evaluation Form** (100 points). At the end of the semester, students will have their practicum site supervisor complete the Practicum Evaluation Form (Form P-5) in the Psy.D. Program Handbook.

Scoring rubric for practicum evaluation form

COMPONENT	POINTS
All sections of the form are completed in entirety	60
The form has been reviewed in person with the student	20
Both the supervisor and student have signed the form	20
TOTAL	100