

USU MASTER OF REHABILITATION COUNSELING: PRACTICUM

REHABILITATION COUNSELING PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

The purpose of the practicum is to enable the student to apply the counseling skills learned in a variety of real-life settings with appropriate supervision and feedback.

DEFINITION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES OF PRACTICUM

Definition

The practicum (REH 6140) is 100 clock hours per semester, 40 hours of which must be client contact hours. Client contact is defined as having a direct interaction with the client. This includes observation as well as active involvement with the client. Activities such as case notes, and other paperwork are counted toward the overall practicum hours, but are not counted as client contact hours.

Goals

The goal of the practicum experience is to provide supervised counseling experience in an applied setting appropriate to rehabilitation counseling. This allows the student to continue his/her learning process and increase counseling skills, enabling the student to provide rehabilitation services in a greater variety of professional settings.

Objectives

1. To develop greater skills in counseling as part of the rehabilitation counseling service delivery.
2. To develop or to enhance abilities to interact with clients in a greater variety of service situations.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The student will learn primarily from video recording, reading, studying, and discussing counseling sessions, submitting video recorded sessions for feedback and integrating that feedback in future sessions. In addition students will receive feedback and guidance from a site supervisor and/or university practicum supervisor.

Areas of observing and participating may include:

1. Accepting referral information
2. Contacting clients
3. Counseling and guidance for clients
4. Establishing eligibility
5. Preparing a service plan
6. Arranging services to meet client needs
7. Other activities pertinent to the practicum site

Reading and studying materials may include:

8. Agency plan
9. Policy and Procedural manual
10. Manual of forms
11. New employee orientation manual
12. Confidentiality requirements
13. Other materials and information pertinent to the practicum site

EXPECTATION FOR STUDENTS

1. Students will complete Practicum Application Forms and have them approved and signed by appropriate personnel and submit them to the university practicum supervisor by application deadlines.
2. Students will read the Code of Professional Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors and commit to following the ethical standards and principles contained in the code by signing the document and submitting a copy with their practicum application.
3. Students are expected to report as professional staff members and to conduct themselves as professionals throughout the practicum adhering to the Code of Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors.
4. Students are expected to dress and act professionally and to call the agency if they will be late or absent.
5. Students will adhere to the work schedule and regulations of the agency. The agency holiday schedule rather than the university holiday schedule will be observed by students.
6. Students will maintain confidentiality of client information under agency guidelines.
7. Students will maintain weekly communication with university practicum supervisor, and will receive weekly supervision at the practicum site (1 hour weekly).
8. Students will present a case review in their practicum group during the assigned class period. This includes submitting a case conceptualization of the case to be reviewed on the date listed on the class schedule.
9. Students will complete a video recorded counseling session (at least 20 minutes in length.)

10. Student-employees will maintain a weekly summary of activities experienced, progress related to learning objectives, professional development, supervision and hours spent in the agency.
11. Upon completion of the practicum, the student will complete a 3-5 page Final Report of practicum experience, Practicum Student Self-Evaluation, Field Site Evaluation, Practicum Experience Time Sheet and submit them to the university practicum supervisor before credit will be given.
12. Students will attend and participate in a weekly practicum class.

SUPERVISION OVERVIEW

The site supervisor acting as a teacher and consultant to the student plays a critical role in the practicum experience.

1. The site supervisor must be an individual who:
 - has as a master's degree in a counseling field and is preferably a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) or CRC-eligible;
 - has worked in the setting at least two years;
 - is interested in supervising students.
2. The site supervisor will be expected to set aside a minimum of a one-hour time block weekly so that the student's progress can be evaluated. In addition, the student should have informal access to the supervisor during the practicum hours as the need arises.
3. Will complete a counseling skills and final practicum evaluation of the student and review the evaluations with the student.