

Practicum
in the
Psychology Major
At Northwest University

Handbook

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Welcome!

The Psychology Major attempts to increase our understanding of people in light of a distinctive Christian worldview. Utilizing a broad humanities based approach, the Psychology Major provides the student with a sound social science foundation from which to understand the individual in his/her environment.

Practicum is a requirement in the Psychology Major. The goal of Practicum is to provide students with personal growth, hands on experience, and education for their future endeavors in the field of Psychology.

This Handbook has been prepared for the purposes of assisting students, faculty, and practicum instructors in developing an understanding of the policies and procedures of the field education practicum programs in the Psychology Major at Northwest University.

Please read all of this packet, as it will familiarize you with the exciting experience in which you are about to embark.

If for any reason, after you have read the material, you still have questions, please feel free to contact us at the numbers listed below:

Gigi Bresolin
Administrative Assistant
swpsych@northwestu.edu

Dr. Kevin Leach
Coordinating Professor
(425) 889-5248

Goals of Psychology Practicum

The objective of the Practicum in Psychology is to produce a competent and ethical generalized practitioner at the BA level of Psychology. Practicum instruction is purposeful, planned, and has specific educational objectives.

What is the process in completing the practicum requirements?

During the practicum, students are placed in a variety of carefully selected field settings for a minimum of two semesters. The student may elect to select two semesters of Senior Thesis instead of a practicum.

1. Each student who elects a practicum is required to spend a total of 180 hours minimum (approx. 12 per week) over a 15-week semester field experience for two consecutive semesters.
2. Successful completion of the program and all degree requirements has the student exiting with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Are all psychology majors required to do a practicum?

Apart from General Core Requirements listed in the College Handbook, Northwest University requires the student to choose one of two elective tracks on which to focus their studies.

All Psychology Majors are required to do a Practicum or Thesis.

Why a Psychology Practicum?

The purpose of the practicum in psychology is to encourage the student's achievement in the following areas:

- ✓ *Skill in collecting and organizing data*
- ✓ *Skill in oral and written communication*
- ✓ *Skill in psychological assessment*
- ✓ *Skill in intervention in human and social situations*
- ✓ *Skill in building effective helping relations*
- ✓ *Skill in understanding and working for change in organizations and systems*
- ✓ *Identification with the values, ethic and purposes of the profession*
- ✓ *Professional discipline*

Practicum Expectations

The expectations placed on the Psychology Practicum Student are clearly explained below and reflect the values of Northwest University.

What Are the Expectations For My Psychology Practicum?

1. The student shall possess a high level of both emotional and spiritual maturity and reflect the values and quality of Northwest University.
2. The student shall recognize the importance of his/her practicum and regard the experience as a class of 360 hours required for graduation.
3. The student shall respect the expertise of his/her supervisor.
4. The student shall attend the practicum meeting at the end of the semester to allow them to reflect on various experiences.
5. The student shall attend their practicum site with an attitude and demeanor reflecting a desire to learn and grow.
6. The student shall report any and all conflict and questionable situations to their Practicum supervisor, and then to the administrative assistant.

What can I expect to Gain From My Psychology Practicum?

1. Employ effective analytical and critical thinking skills.
2. Exhibit insight into human needs, motivation, emotions, and behavior.
3. Understand and develop valuable relationships in the service of the institution and people.
4. Integrate and possess an understanding of the relationship between the clients and the institution/organization members.
5. Exhibit critical understanding of the human institutions and values which make up the psychological community.

Psychology Practicum Requirements

Getting Started

1. Start looking for a Practicum site and pick up a Practicum handbook with the psychology administrative assistant. This should be done during the second semester of your Junior year.



⇒ If you need help looking for a Practicum site, stop by the undergraduate psychology office. We will help you find a site and give you important information.

2. Select a Practicum site and finalize with the intended supervisor.
3. After you have secured a Practicum site, turn in a Practicum Proposal to the administrative assistant.
⇒ This proposal needs to be approved by Dr. Leach before you begin working.
Once approved, you may begin recording your hours!
4. Register for the Practicum class (3 credits) and receive a syllabus. You are now ready to begin your Practicum!



During your Practicum

Please turn in typed, weekly, one page summary reports (more than one paragraph) to Dr. Leach and the administrative assistant.



These should be turned in via e-mail to Dr. Leach (kevin.leach@northwestu.edu) and to the administrative assistant (swpsych@northwestu.edu).

Finishing up

1. A timesheet must be signed by your supervisor and returned to the administrative assistant when you are finished with your hours.
2. We must receive a letter from your supervisor letting us know how you did before we can give you a grade.

Psychology Practicum Proposal

Student:

Name: _____ Current GPA: _____

NU Box # _____ Phone # (____) _____ Email Address _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Proposed Semester: Fall Spr Sum Year: 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Is this your first or second semester of practicum? 1st 180 hours 2nd 180 hours

Proposed Placement:

Organization/Office: _____

Supervisor: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Expected Duties: _____

Signatures:

I am willing to discuss the possibility of becoming his/her supervisor in this experience.

Proposed Supervisor

Date

Student

Date

To be completed by Psychology Department:

Practicum Advisor

Date

____ Approved / ____ Disapproved ____ Approved with modifications:
