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. Jacqueline Gustafson  
Coordinating Professor  
(425) 889-5327
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?

1. The student may select either Practicum or Thesis.

2. During the practicum, students are placed in a variety of carefully selected field settings for a minimum of one semester (three credits). With professor permission, the student may elected split the three credit Practicum over the course of two semesters.

3. Each student who elects a practicum is required to spend a total of 180 (60 hours per credit of practicum) hours minimum at the practicum site.

4. Successful completion of the program and all degree requirements has the student exiting with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

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

**Why a Psychology Practicum?**


**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 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 the Practicum Professor.

**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 print a Practicum Handbook from the Eagle website. 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 psychology student employee.
   ⇒ This proposal needs to be approved by Dr. Gustafson before you begin working.
   Once approved, you may begin recording your hours!

4. Register for the Practicum class (one—three credits; three total prior to graduation)

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. Gustafson. These should be turned in via e-mail to Dr. Gustafson by emailing swpsych@northwestu.edu.

Finishing up

1. A timesheet must be signed by your supervisor and returned to Dr. Gustafson by the end of the semester. Please email timesheets to swpsych@northwestu.edu.

2. We must receive a letter from your supervisor letting us know how you did before we can give you a grade. Please email letters to swpsych@northwestu.edu.
Psychology Practicum Proposal

Student:

Name: ____________________________________________  Current GPA: ______

NU Box #_______  Phone # (___)________  Email Address _____________________________

Expected Date of Graduation: ________________


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

How many credits are you registered for  1   2   3

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:
## Psychology Practicum
Field Experience Time Sheet
(180 hours required)

Name: ___________________________ Semester _____20__ Current GPA: ________

NU Box #________ Phone # (___)________ Email Address _____________________________

Site ______________________________ Supervisor Name____________________________

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Psychology Practicum
Field Experience Time Sheet (cont)
(180 hours required)

Name: ___________________________ Semester _____20__ NU Box # ________

Site ________________________________ Supervisor Name____________________________

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____________________________ TOTAL HOURS

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Student

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Supervisor