

Psy 902: Practicum in Applied Social Psychology

Instructors: Applied Social Psychology Faculty

Practicum Activities: 8 hours (1 day) per week during the academic term (normally 26 weeks).

Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with field experiences in social research, training and consultation appropriate to their level (MA or PhD)
2. To provide students with an opportunity to apply social-psychological knowledge, research methods and skills within a community setting
3. To further students' professional development

Course Descriptions:

This course consists of supervised field work in a community agency or organization. Each student will be under the direct supervision of an individual faculty member and an on-site supervisor from the agency/organization. This field work can be an applied research project (usually some aspect of program evaluation) and/or it can be substantial involvement in ongoing program planning or program development.

The student and faculty supervisor will meet weekly to discuss activities and progress. As well, the agency supervisor is also expected to meet with the student on a weekly basis or as needed. The expectation is that the student will take the lead on the project specified in the contract, but that the faculty and agency supervisor will provide strong support and backup at all times. There need not be a final report to the agency (it is not a requirement), but if there is, this report will be jointly written by the student (senior author) and the faculty member (junior author). Publication rights to the project varies from project to project and is an important issue to negotiate during the contracting phase.

Evaluation:

Students are evaluated on a pass/fail basis when their field project is completed. This evaluation is based upon:

1. The faculty member's assessment of the student's written work (reports, questionnaires, manuals, etc.)
2. The agency supervisor's written evaluation of the student's competence in professional research skills or consultation; his/her ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships (social skills); and his/her ethical conduct. (These evaluations will be shared with the student and then placed in his/her file)
3. The faculty supervisor's evaluation of the student using the same criteria as in Point #2. This evaluation is usually orally communicated to the student in a final meeting.