

Clinical Training: Practicum

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Practicum

- ▶ Both Clinical Psychology doctoral programs require students to successfully complete two 12-month practicum placements, during the second and third year of the curriculum.
 - ▶ Psychology Services Center
 - ▶ Outside Practicum Site
 - ▶ 2021-2022 Brochure: <https://psychology.nova.edu/common-pdf/students/practicum-brochure-202122.pdf>
 - ▶ 2020-2021 Practicum Handbook (updated each summer): <https://psychology.nova.edu/common-pdf/students/practicum-handbook-202021.pdf>
- ▶ An elective practicum may be taken during the fourth year. Elective practicum placements are typically for 2 semesters or 8 months. They are assigned after all first and second year practica students have been assigned.
- ▶ Eligibility
 - ▶ Prerequisite courses
 - ▶ Core performance standards

Core Performance Standards and Disclosures

- ▶ In addition to academic abilities and skills, students must possess ***intrapersonal, communication, behavioral, and personal attributes*** that are considered integral and necessary parts of professional functioning (profession-wide competencies), including:
 - ▶ Professionalism - attendance, timeliness, dependability, demonstrating concern for well-being of clients. Self-awareness and reflection, professional attire, etc.
 - ▶ Communication and Interpersonal Skills - Respectful and positive interactions with others, professional oral and written communication, openness (non-defensive) to feedback from supervisors and others, etc.
 - ▶ Ethics - ensures client confidentiality, record-keeping, etc.

Students who do not meet the minimum requirements will be advised and remediated as appropriate

- ▶ Disclosures - students must disclose any prior charges, arrests, convictions, etc. prior to beginning practicum and before applying for internship (contact Dr. G-L immediately)

Clinical Training Requirements

- ▶ **Track all clinical training activities-** Time2Track, PsyKey, personal Excel, etc. (starting in 2020, T2T linked with APPI- internship application)
- ▶ **Pre- pandemic**
 - ▶ **First year practicum students** (Clinical Practicum I, II and Summer) - Minimum average of 10 hours/week
 - ▶ Minimum average 5 face to face hours in direct service provision (e.g. assessment or intervention). 480 hours total.
 - ▶ **Second year practicum students** (Clinical Practicum III, IV and Summer) - Minimum average of 15 hours/week
 - ▶ Minimum average 7.5 face to face hours in direct service provision delivery (e.g. assessment or intervention). 720 hours total.
 - ▶ **Elective practicum students** - minimum average 10 hours/week
 - ▶ Minimum average 5 face-to-face hours in direct service provision (e.g. assessment or intervention). 480 hours total.
- ▶ **Post-COVID- 19** - APA, APPIC, and all training counsels recommend flexibility and focus on clinical competency instead of hours.
 - ▶ Tele-supervision
 - ▶ Telehealth - Florida Law requires telehealth providers to be in Florida to provide services to clients in Florida.

Registration: Practicum and Intensive Supervision

- ▶ During the **second year of matriculation**, students are required to enroll in a 3-credit hour course for each of 3 semesters. Concurrently with each practicum registration, students enroll for 1 credit of intensive supervision with a faculty member.
 - ▶ Fall: PSY 2701 Clinical Practicum I and PSY 2703 Intensive Supervision
 - ▶ Winter: PSY 2702 Clinical Practicum II and PSY 2704 Intensive Supervision
 - ▶ Summer Practicum PSY 270A and PSY 270B Intensive Supervision
- ▶ During the **third year of matriculation**, students are required to enroll in a 3-credit hour course for each of 3 semesters. Concurrently with each practicum registration, students enroll for 1 credit of intensive supervision with a faculty member.
 - ▶ Fall: PSY 3701 Clinical Practicum III and PSY 3703 Intensive Supervision
 - ▶ Winter: PSY 3702 Clinical Practicum IV and PSY 3704 Intensive Supervision
 - ▶ Summer Practicum PSY 370A and PSY 370B Intensive Supervision

The only requirement that can take precedence over practicum hours is enrollment in a course

Supervision

- ▶ **Minimum hours of supervision:**
 - ▶ 45 minutes/week of site supervision (case-management)
 - ▶ 45 minutes/week of intensive (in-depth focus on a limited number of cases) or its equivalent in groups (e.g., if there are 6 students in a supervision group, the group will be 6 x 45 minutes or 4.5 hours in length). *Optional for elective practicum.*
 - ▶ Students who are in practicum placements directed by a COP faculty member (in the PSC) have as their supervisor the faculty member who heads the faculty clinic.
- ▶ Students assigned to PSC clinics directed by staff psychologists or to community placements are also assigned COP faculty members who serve as their intensive supervisors, and who provide intensive supervision.
- ▶ American Psychological Association requires that an appropriately credentialed (i.e., licensed psychologist) individual who is located at the site at least 20 hours per week provide all supervision.
- ▶ Direct observation- audio/video or live supervision
 - ▶ Students are required to obtain written consent prior to discussing or playing recorded sessions of clients in intensive supervision. Signed consent forms remain in the client's file at the practicum site.

Evaluations

- ▶ Each semester all students will be evaluated and will receive:
 - ▶ A practicum grade
 - ▶ An intensive supervision grade (for students in PSC clinics directed by staff psychologists and those in community placements)
 - ▶ Students will be evaluated on nine (9) areas of profession-wide competency: research; ethical and legal standards; individual and cultural diversity; professional values, attitudes and behaviors; communication and interpersonal skills; assessment; intervention; supervision; and consultation and interprofessional/interdisciplinary skills
- ▶ Each semester students will complete anonymous (i.e., students are never identified in any data summaries provided to supervisors) evaluations:
 - ▶ Practicum Placement Evaluation form
 - ▶ Intensive Supervision Evaluation form, if applicable.

Check with supervisors to make sure evaluations are completed on time to avoid prolonged “IP” or “PR” grades on transcripts

Grading

- ▶ In order to receive a grade for a practicum, students must satisfactorily demonstrate competencies as required by the practicum site and complete all of the practicum site requirements (e.g., paperwork, reports etc.), and demonstrate satisfactory performance on the Practicum Training Evaluation form. Evaluations of the delineated competencies will be assigned according to the following system:
 - ▶ A = 93-100% Meets or Exceeds Expectations
 - ▶ A- = 90-92% Meets or Exceeds Expectations
 - ▶ B+ = 88-89% Meets Expectations
 - ▶ B = 83-87% Meets Expectations
 - ▶ B- = 80-82% Minimum Level of Achievement
 - ▶ C+ = 78-79% Does not meet Expectations
 - ▶ C = 73-77 % Does not meet Expectations
 - ▶ C- = 70-72% Does not meet Expectations
 - ▶ F = Below 70% Does not meet Expectations
- ▶ Remediation must have occurred prior to students earning ratings lower than B- on competency items of evaluation and/or an overall practicum eval grade lower than B-

Extension of Practicum Experience

- ▶ At times students may choose to extend a practicum placement, either to gain further experience or continue treating specific clients for training purposes.
- ▶ Students must obtain permission from the practicum supervisor and must submit a Practicum Extension Form to the Clinical Training Office prior to continuing the practicum placement beyond the required one-year period.
 - ▶ PSC Extension form: https://psychology.nova.edu/common-pdf/studentresources/PSC_Extension_Form.pdf
 - ▶ External practicum site Extension Form: https://psychology.nova.edu/common-pdf/studentresources/Non_Nova_Site_Extension_Form.pdf
- ▶ Must be registered in a course to be covered under liability insurance.

Duties and Responsibilities of Students

- ▶ Perform appropriate job-related functions in the facility as directed by the on-site supervisor(s).
- ▶ Demonstrate competencies associated with the areas described in the Practicum Training Evaluation form.
- ▶ Read assigned materials or applicable literature in the knowledge base.
- ▶ Discuss with the site supervisor and/or the intensive supervisor any problems or issues that may arise at a practicum. If a problem arises at the site that cannot be resolved, the student should contact the DCT or Associate DCT to discuss this further.
- ▶ Continuously work to improve his or her performance in response to constructive feedback provided by supervisors.
- ▶ Complete the *Evaluation of Clinical Experience* form collected at the end of each semester.
- ▶ Abide by the ethical principles of the American Psychological Association (APA), and understand the State of Florida statutes for Licensed Psychologists (Title XXXII, Chapter 490). Likewise, as representatives of NSU, all students have an obligation to perform at the highest level of functioning and to demonstrate professional behavior as specified in this handbook and the Clinical Psychology doctoral program handbooks at all times.
- ▶ Become familiar with and abide by all state and federal regulations governing the practice of psychology (e.g., abuse of disabled, elders, children; rules governing breaking confidentiality).
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality of client records and all relevant information.
- ▶ Spend the required amount of time in practicum activities and supervision.
- ▶ Audio or video record assessment, intervention or consultation sessions provided that clients (or guardians) allow for such and with the proper informed consent. **Students are never to coerce clients into signing consents for recording.**
- ▶ **Must have completed HIPAA training offered through COP prior to starting their first practicum** as well as any other additional training required by practicum placements.
- ▶ Complete (in a timely manner) any background check, drug screen, physical readiness or other screening is required prior to beginning the placement and to take all necessary steps to have such screening steps completed.
 - ▶ *Respond to emails from Office of Clinical Training regarding on-boarding to avoid delays in starting practicum

Practicum student performance difficulties

- ▶ First, the on-site supervisor, faculty supervisor, or both will discuss the difficulties with the student, suggest changes (e.g., additional reading) or implement changes (e.g., providing for supervisor review additional audio recordings of practicum performance), and monitor and provide feedback on their impact.
- ▶ Second, if such steps do not lead to the warranted knowledge or skill improvement, the on-site and faculty supervisor will jointly develop a written performance improvement plan review it with the Director or Associate Director of Clinical Training and discuss and sign it with the student before implementation.
- ▶ Third, if the performance improvement plan does not result in the targeted change(s) during the period specified, the matter will be referred to the Director of Clinical Training. In consultation with the Clinical Training Committee, the Director of Clinical Training will meet with the student and his/her supervisors, identify the areas of continuing concern, and determine whether interruption of the clinical practicum sequence is warranted to facilitate more intensive remediation steps.
- ▶ At the scheduled conclusion of the remediation period, the student, the Director of Clinical Training, and the practicum supervisor(s) will meet again to review the student's performance on the behavioral indicators, and determine whether the student (1) can return to clinical practicum training, (2) needs to extend the remediation plan with or without modification(s), or (3) warrants referral to the Professional Standing Committee for a determination of his/her fitness to continue doctoral training.

Training Office Contact Information

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