

Practicum in Applied Behavior Science

The practicum program in Applied Behavioral Sciences has been part of the program since its inception. Through a practicum, students are able to test their interests and to learn more about possible future careers than what can be done in the classroom alone. More specifically, the practicum will help students to:

- clarify their values in the world of work;
- discover what kinds of clientele they can or cannot work with;
- learn what kinds of organizational environments in which they can successfully carry out their chosen profession;
- learn to critically evaluate policies and procedures that can lead to a better delivery of services;
- establish professional networks;
- gain valuable pre-entry real-world work experience that can jump-start their careers.

Practicum Course Description

The practicum in ABS (listed as ABS 779) must be taken for two consecutive quarters as a minimum. However, the practicum can be taken for three quarters if desired. The practicum will receive four (4) credit hours per quarter. The practicum student is required to work 12 hours per week at the agency of choice. Grades are given on an A through F scale.

Course Requirements

1. At the beginning of each practicum quarter, the students will submit five learning objectives to be accomplished during that term. Accomplishment of those objectives are to be detailed in a short paper at the end of the quarter.
2. Students are expected to keep a journal analyzing each contact with the practicum agency. Journal entries should go beyond mere summarizing of the day's events to critically analyzing what took place that day, how productive it was, and what could have been done differently. Further discussion should include application of material learned in the college classroom (both Sociology and other courses).
3. Students are also required to submit an annotated bibliography of fifteen peer-reviewed journal articles, per quarter, from professional journals pertinent to the specific field placement.
4. Students are required to have individual weekly conferences with Dr. Wilcox.
5. Final grades are based on the evaluation of the agency supervisor as well as the evaluation of the quality of the annotated bibliography, the journal, the objectives paper, and the weekly conferences with Dr. Wilcox.