School of Education Conceptual Framework

The primary mission of the School of Education is to prepare leaders in education and human services fields. As stated in the School Code

Within the University, the School of Education serves Kansas, the nation, and the world by (1) preparing individuals to be leaders and practitioners in education and related human service fields, (2) expanding and deepening understanding of education as a fundamental human endeavor, and (3) helping society define and respond to its educational responsibilities and challenges.

The components that frame our mission for our initial and advanced programs are: (1) Research and Best Practice; (2) Content Knowledge; and (3) Professionalism. These three themes build our conceptual framework.

The Research Practicum allows doctoral students to become involved in research from the beginning of their program, and helps them begin to consume and potentially produce new research that is relevant to theory and practice in school psychology. You will apply the knowledge that you have learned in your coursework and will work collaboratively and under the mentorship of a faculty member as you develop your professional identity.

NASP Standards
Domain 9: Research and Program Evaluation
School psychologists have knowledge of research design, statistics, measurement, varied data collection and analysis techniques, and program evaluation sufficient for understanding research and interpreting data in applied settings.

KSDE Standards
Standard 9: Research
The school psychologist evaluates research, translates research into practice, and understands research design and statistics in sufficient depth to plan and conduct investigations and program evaluations for improvement of services.

Standard 11: Technology
The school psychologist accesses, evaluates, and utilizes information sources and technology in ways that safeguard or enhance the quality of services.
Purpose of the Course
Students in the doctoral program in school psychology are required to complete four Research Practica (i.e., four semesters, two credit hours each, for a total of eight hours) in addition to their specialist research (i.e., PRE 947, Specialist Research, for a total of four hours) during the first three years in the doctoral program. The purpose of the Research Practica is for doctoral students to become involved in research immediately when the being the doctoral program to help them develop strong research skills under close faculty supervision. Through the Research Practica (and Specialist Research), doctoral students are exposed to different research methodologies, designs, theories, and writing skills necessary to understand and conduct research. The research conducted by doctoral students must be relevant to theory and practice in the field of school psychology.

Requirements for Research Practicum
Doctoral students are required to produce three research products throughout their enrollment in Research Practicum and Specialist Research during their first three years. The three research products will consist of (a) an assessment product, intervention product, and a prevention product with a comprehensive section addressing ethics in one of the products, or (b) three products in one area, such as assessment, but must also include a comprehensive section addressing intervention in one product, prevention in another product, and ethics in the third product, or (c) two products in one area, such as interventions, and one product in one of the other areas, assessment or prevention, and in two of the three products, the student must also include a comprehensive section addressing ethics in one of the products, and the major area (i.e., assessment, intervention, or prevention) not covered as the main area in the three products. Human diversity will also be addressed in these products.

Examples of possible products for the Research Practica include a literature review, a theoretical article, a position paper, a book chapter, a review of a measure, a quasi-experimental study, a meta-analysis, a correlational study, or a single-subject design study. At least one of these research products is required to be a quantitative study.

Supervision of Research Practicum
Doctoral students are supervised on the three research projects by one or more faculty members of the School Psychology Program Committee. Doctoral students are required to have regular weekly or biweekly meetings with their supervisor(s) during the academic school year when enrolled in the Research Practicum. Doctoral students are required to enroll for two credits of PRE 901 Research Practicum each semester (i.e., fall and spring) during the first two years in the doctoral program.

Research Skills Requirement
Doctoral students are strongly encouraged to use one of the three products to fulfill a portion of the research skills requirement of the program. The research skills requirement requires the doctoral student to submit a proposal (a poster or paper presentation) to a national conference, have it accepted, and present the poster or paper at the national conference or submit a manuscript to a refereed journal for consideration for publication. The manuscript does not need to be accepted for publication. The submission, acceptance, and presentation of a poster or paper at a national conference or submission of a manuscript to a refereed journal for consideration for publication plus completion of the research, statistics, measurement, and evaluation required
courses and electives fulfill the research skills requirement. The Research Practica and Specialist Research products cover five major areas (i.e., assessment, intervention, prevention, ethics, and research design, statistics, and measurement). In addition, human diversity is also addressed in these products. These three products comprise the doctoral student’s written comprehensive exams.

**Research Practicum and Written Comprehensive Exams**
The School Psychology Program Committee faculty member who serves as the research supervisor on the three products will evaluate the products to determine whether the student passes or fails the written portion of the doctoral comprehensive exams. If more than one School Psychology Program Committee faculty member serves as a research supervisor on one or more of the research products, then the research supervisors will by consensus determine whether the student passes or fails the written portion of the doctoral comprehensive exam.

**Grading**
The grade schedule for the Research Practicum is a letter grade. Letter grades A–F+/-. Grades that are submitted prior to the completion of the project will reflect the progress the student has made to that point on the research project.

**Readings**
Readings will be completed as needed to fully document and complete the research project.

**Research Compliance**
All specialist research that involves human subjects must first be approved by the Human Subjects Committee – Lawrence (HSC-L) campus. Application forms for HSC-L Committee Approval must be submitted through the following website ecompliance.ku.edu. Students are expected to comply with the ethical principles specified for conducting research in the NASP and APA Code of Ethics.