Psychology and Research in Education
PRE 842 Counseling Practicum

Fall, 2003

Instructor: Karen D. Multon, Ph.D.

Office hrs: by appointment--phone or stop by my office to schedule an appointment

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Class Times: Thursday, 4:30-7:10pm

Consultation: Individual consultation to be arranged

Location: 620 Joseph R. Pearson Hall


Other readings as assigned.

NOTE: Students are required to carry professional liability insurance during their enrollment in practicum. (This requirement was stated on your practicum pre-enrollment form.) Evidence of insurance coverage is to be presented to the instructor no later than the second class session. Insurance is available through the APA or ACA to student members. Students will not be permitted to begin seeing clients until proof of insurance coverage is provided. This is for your protection.

+ "The major task of the maturing psychotherapist is to learn to tolerate uncertainty." (Yalom, 1980, p. 410)

The quote above reflects what I consider to be a major part of your learning this semester. Counseling is hard work and there are no easy answers. Each of you will develop personalized goals for this semester (in consultation with your individual on-site supervisor), that will reflect your current needs for growth.
**Course Objectives**

1. For students to develop their counseling perspective(s) and techniques in service of that perspective. (The development of the ability to conceptualize, articulate, and operate out of a particular perspective is the basic objective of this first practicum)

2. For students to provide quality professional service to clients of the practicum site.

3. For students to acquire a greater sense of professional and personal self-efficacy.

I assume if the first two goals are reasonably met, the last goal will be achieved. In relation to these goals and forming a good part of the basis for evaluation, the program considers the following to be more specific objectives of the course:

1. To develop and sustain a basic helpful relationship with clients that is characterized by respect, trust, warmth, and regard for the client as a person.

2. To be able to focus and work on the central concerns of the client, hence minimizing the introduction of peripheral issues.

3. To be able to separate your concerns and agendas from those of the client.

4. To be able to conceptualize the directions and processes single counseling sessions take as well as the overall course of counseling work.

5. To be able to establish with clients appropriate, reasonable, and manageable goals.

6. To learn to locate and use appropriate resources (i.e. referral sources, test information, etc.) when necessary.

7. To learn how to use a variety of strategies in appropriate ways.

8. To actively participate in giving and receiving constructive comments regarding your work as well as that of other students in the course.

9. To develop a clear sense of ethical and professional conduct in your work.

The practicum represents the culmination of your program’s formal instructional experience and, for most of you, the beginning of your professional career as a counselor. In this regard, your performance in this course (i.e., the competencies and attitudes you demonstrate in the course) serve as a “benchmark” for the program and for prospective employers or other graduate programs. At least as important, however, is that it should also serve as a “benchmark” to you with respect to (a) your ability to retrieve and apply the concepts, rules and clinical strategies
that you have learned in your previous didactic and lab work, and (b) how much more there is to learn.

Practicum site expectations

The clinical and professional opportunities available to students on site will differ among the various sites. Since this is a counseling practicum, it is expected that the bulk of your time on-site will be spent counseling individuals--primarily in individual sessions, but it may also include counseling in groups and (for students in the school counseling program) classroom guidance activities. I also expect and hope that you will become involved in other aspects of your setting including, but not limited to: (a) attending case/staff conferences, (b) familiarizing yourself with the assessment tools and practices used in your setting, (b) involving yourself in programs the setting has in progress, (c) participating in organizational and administrative functions, (d) consulting with other personnel, and (e) familiarizing yourself with the setting's referral sources.

The actual numbers of clients you see, as well as any additional clinical/professional experiences in which you may be asked or required to participate, will be dictated by the setting. As a rule for this course, however, you are expected to be on-site the equivalent of at least one day (i.e., 8-10 hours) per week and to carry an average on-site case load of 4 clients (i.e., 4 one-hour sessions) per week. (NOTE: Within some settings, counseling sessions must, out of necessity, be more limited in length. In such settings, you should expect to hold a greater number of appointments in order to accrue the necessary client contact hours.) Given the length of the academic term, this works out to an expectation of approximately 40-45 hours of direct client contact during the semester. Anything less than this may jeopardize your timely completion of this practicum. It is important that you make this an expectation for yourself, and that you share it with your on site supervisor. If you anticipate or find yourself having difficulty meeting this expectation, please let me know--IMMEDIATELY. Students are required to keep an ongoing log of all of their practicum activities. Copies of the program’s practicum documentation forms are provided along with this course syllabus but also may be found in your student handbook.

The expectations we have for school counseling students at practicum sites is different. Since school counselors generally spend less time in individual counseling the practicum expectation is to work with a minimum of 2 individual clients per week. More time will be spent on classroom guidance activities, teacher and parent consulting, career services, guidance planning activities, assessment activities, and other services that counselors perform within schools.

Practicum activities are to be recorded on the appropriate Practicum Summary Sheet and signed by you. Please make a copy of these sheets for your records, as the original will be put in your departmental file. You might also give a copy to your academic advisor.

Course Requirements:

1. As indicated above you are expected to work with 2-5 clients per week. You will be expected to keep records on the following forms: practicum log practicum summary sheet, case note forms.
2. Attend all class meetings and actively participate.
3. Attend weekly meetings with the individual on-site supervisor (a minimum of one hour per week) and prepare for those meetings as required by your supervisor. You will also have consultation time with an advanced graduate student. I will supervise their supervision.

4. Complete all necessary paperwork as required by your practicum site. Keep a personal record of all activities completed related to this practicum. At the end of the semester, a summary of these activities must be turned in to me and your advisor. You should also keep a copy for your own records. These records will be used in the future for internship and/or job applications.

5. Present at least two counseling tapes (video preferred) in class. A case formulation must be prepared for each tape presented and copies made to distribute to class members. (See attached case formulation outline). For school counseling students, a report on some guidance activity with a written summary report may be substituted for an individual counseling presentation.

6. Read one book of your choice on psychotherapy/counseling (see attached list for suggestions) and write a 2-4 page outline summarizing the book and giving your views of the material. You will be asked to briefly talk about this book in class (15 to 20 minutes). The due date will be discussed in class.

7. Develop a 1 to 2 page resource/information sheet for a client dealing with a specific issue. Resources may include written materials, audio or video tapes, websites, information about support groups, clinics, counselors, inpatient or outpatient treatment in this area. This is a 1 to 2 page list for a client to take with them. You need to make copies for the class (including me) and then send it by attachment to the class. The “specific issue” will be chosen by random selection by each student during class.

**Supervision and Consultation: General guidelines**

It is an expectation of this department that your practicum site will provide you with an on-site supervisor who will orient you to the setting, the clientele, the procedures and expectations for professionals operating in that setting, and who will be available to you on-site to assist you in handling immediate clinical concerns or problems with your clients. This person is your formal clinical supervisor—having direct legal and professional responsibility for your work with clients. If anything that is suggested in class or in your consultations should ever conflict with anything your site supervisor is telling you, it is YOUR responsibility to let me know that at once. None of us can afford for you to be receiving mixed signals about how you are to be handling your cases. The focus in our sessions is on generic skill development, though we are using your cases as a starting point for which skills to work on.

Additionally, it is an expectation that you will be (a) provided with suitable counseling space (e.g., a private room) and (b) permitted to record (audio and/or video) your sessions with your clients, and that these tapes will be available for review on campus as a part of your practicum. (It is not an expectation that the site provide you with recording equipment, however.) If any of these expectations cannot be met on-site, please let me know IMMEDIATELY.
Your on-site supervisor, your KU graduate-student supervisor and I have very clear dual obligations:

1. We have the obligation to you to provide you (within the constraints of time and resources) with the assistance you need to prepare for you to develop into a competent counselor. Neither of us will expect you to become a “seasoned clinician” by the end of practicum; but each of us will expect you to be inquisitive and open, willing to take reasonable risks, gaining in skill, and developing a sense of professional competence. You, in turn, may expect us to provide you with assistance in developing your professional competencies and identity.

2. We also have an obligation to the clients who come to you for assistance—to assure to the best of our ability that the services that you render are appropriate and helpful. Although we are concerned about your development as a counselor, we must also be intensely concerned about the effects you have on your clients.

It is important for you to keep both of these obligations in mind as you receive supervisory feedback.

**Practicum Seminar**

The practicum seminar (our class session) will included (a) a discussion of practicum/counseling issues, the readings for the class, any assignments, and (b) individual case presentations, and group case consultation. With regard to the case presentations, the following guidelines are offered:

1. We generally will use a rotation system for in-class presentations; however, you should feel free to present any cases with which you are experiencing difficulties or concerns, even if it is not your week to present.

2. Please come prepared to review your current cases with the class each week. This means that you will be able to summarize your cases to date, provide your conceptualization of each case, discuss the rationale for the work you are doing with each client, and request the necessary feedback and assistance that will enable you to continue productive work with these clients.

3. Regarding your presentation of tapes, please review each session prior to class and cue the tape you will be presenting to a particular portion of that session that represents the sample of your work you wish the class to attend to. Although it may be tempting to use tape presentations to showcase your best work, it will be more beneficial to your learning and development as a counselor if you these opportunities to preset areas, issues or interactions on which you believe you need work or assistance. As a beginning practicum student your are not expected to be an expert, so realize that it is okay and even expected that you will make mistakes. It is from these mistakes that your greatest
learning opportunities will come. But you must be willing to take the risk to acknowledge and present your short-comings in class to request assistance for true growth to occur.

4. When your classmates are making case presentations, you are expected to act as consultants to them. This means that you will listen attentively and offer honest, constructive feedback regarding their work.

Individual Supervision and Case Consultation

In addition to on-site service and supervision commitments and class (practicum seminar) expectations, it is a requirement that you schedule and receive some individual consultation with the course instructor or an advanced graduate student in Counseling Psychology. Students assigned to a graduate student supervisor also will meet periodically with the course instructor.

On-site supervisors should provide you with regular (e.g., weekly) individual supervision. If additional on-site supervision is available to you, take it. Clinical supervision is always a premium professional learning opportunity.

Evaluation

Grading for the course is S-F. In certain exceptional circumstances, a grade of I (incomplete) may be assigned. Evaluation is also based on student's performance and contributions to various in-class activities. These activities include: (a) scheduled presentations of case to the class, (b) in-class involvement and constructive participation regarding other student's cases and presentations, and (c) being prepared during individual supervisory sessions

The previously noted course objectives provide the framework for evaluative judgments concerning students’ clinical performance in the course. Clearly, judgments concerning performance relative to these objectives involve an element of subjective/clinical judgment on the part of supervisors—this is inherent in any clinical course. In order to try to control for possible “misperceptions” by the instructor or the student, early and ongoing evaluation is important; and I will do my best to provide you with this.

Although it is my intent to be supportive and encouraging, evaluative feedback may not always be “positive.” That is, some of the feedback that you receive will require (or at least encourage) you to accommodate and change. Although I am confident that much of what you will be doing will be clinically “correct,” my expectation is that you will “develop” through your experiences in this course--not that you will stay the same.

In the end, the largest part of one’s final evaluation will reflect where you are in your development as a counselor/psychologist by considering the course objectives in two ways:

1. How much and what kinds of progress has the student made?
2. Where is the student at the end of the course?
There is no “final examination” for this class. However I request an individual meeting with each student at the conclusion of class sometime during the final week of classes. This will be a final “feedback” session.

Extensions of Practicum

Occasionally, a student wishes to continue seeing clients on-site during the interim between semesters. If the site is supportive of this and will continue to provide a minimum of one hour of weekly supervision, fine. You need to know, however, that I will not be available to continue meeting with you regarding your clients once classes end. Also, if you wish to continue, you should arrange with me to take an “incomplete” for the course until the start of the next semester. If a grade is submitted and you continue to see clients, technically you are doing so without being enrolled, and your liability insurance is may be no longer in effect void” during that period. If you will continue see clients into the subsequent semester, you are required to be enrolled in a field experience with one of the CPSY faculty during that semester, and the same on-site supervision arrangement is required.

You should understand that continuing on at a practicum site is matter that requires (a) the commitment of the site, (b) the commitment of a CPSY faculty member (as consultant), and (c) the prior approval of the practicum placement coordinator. The program’s primary commitment is to students needing practicum placements for their degree program, and practicum placements go first to students who need but have not yet completed practicum. Do not arrange to continue on at a site without first contacting the program’s practicum coordinator to be sure placement slots at the site are not needed for students still needing to complete their practicum experience.
Practicum Taping Consent Form

I, ________________________________, give ___________________________

(Client or Client's Parent or Guardian) (Counselor)

a student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Kansas, permission to
audio/video tape our counseling sessions. The contents of the tapes may be reviewed with a
practicum supervisor, counseling faculty, and supervision group. Furthermore, I understand that
my name shall not be used and that the materials are considered confidential within the limits
specified below.

I understand that my counselor is a graduate student in counseling psychology, is not yet
licensed or registered, and is under the supervision of a qualified supervisor.

______________________________       ________________________________

(Client signature)       (Counselor signature)

______________________________     ________________________________

(Signature of parent or guardian if client is a minor) (Date)*

Confidentiality Limits

Clients have the right to confidentiality. Information shared in counseling will remain within
the professional setting. There are, however, legal exceptions to this right. Information must
be divulged:

(a) when ordered by the court, and
(b) when the counselor and his/her supervisor determine that an individual may present a
threat to self or others

Additionally, Kansas law requires the report of any known or suspected instance of child
abuse or neglect.

It is understood that all information disclosed within these sessions will otherwise be kept
confidential and will not be released to anyone outside of the agency without written
permission, except where disclosure is required by law.

* NOTE: Unless rescinded by the client, this authorization to record counseling interviews
remains valid for one year from this date.
Authorization to Audiotape or Videotape Counseling Interviews

______________________________ provides a variety of services to individuals and their families. It also supports the teaching and training mission of the Department of Counseling Psychology at the University of Kansas.

Because the agency provides a teaching-training function, permission is frequently requested of its clients to audiotape and/or videotape the interviews that are conducted by the staff and our professionals-in-training. However, no recording is ever done unless the client has given permission to do so. In order to assure adequate and effective supervision, these recorded interviews are periodically reviewed in clinical staff meetings and supervision sessions. Tapes are erased after they have served their purpose.

Clients may be assured that their contacts remain confidential within this setting except in instances in which (a) the client, in the professional judgment of the counselor, expresses serious intent to harm him/herself or someone else, (b) the counselor learns of or suspects child abuse or neglect, or (c) there is a court order to release information.

Your signature below indicates that you have agreed to be audio/videotaped.

_________________________________  __________________________
Client signature                    Date*

* Unless rescinded by the client, this authorization to record counseling sessions remains valid for one year from this date.
Please complete the following and return to me as soon as possible (but no later than the next class session):

Name _____________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

Practice site
   Name of site ___________________________________________________
   Address ________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

   Supervisor _____________________________________________________
   Title: ___________________________________________________________
   Phone __________________________________________________________
   E-mail __________________________________________________________

Days/Hours on site ________________________________________________

Please provide a list of all available times for individual supervision. Within reason, I will try to accommodate to those times; but you too must be flexible and accommodating in your schedule.

This practicum requires that you receive weekly individual on-site supervision and at least some on-campus consultation in addition to your participation in the practicum seminar/class. If your schedule does not permit the time for full participation in practicum this semester, you should arrange to take practicum at some later date.

*Individual on-campus consultation may be provided by an advanced doctoral student in counseling psychology.
Assignment:

Due next class session. Please type (limit 4 pgs). These will be shared in class.

A. Being as specific as you can, describe your personal philosophy/beliefs about "healthy" human functioning. That is, what to YOU constitutes good "mental health?" [This is not a question about your own “theory of personality.” Rather it is a question about your values and beliefs about psychological health.]

B. Describe your approach to counseling--i.e., what sort of counselor are you (or what kind of counselor do you want to be)? If you indicate that you are (or want to be) a "behavioral counselor," explain what that means for your work with clients. Likewise, if you describe yourself as a "client centered counselor" or a "cognitive (or cognitive behavioral) counselor," explain what that means as regards your work with clients. [This is not a question about your own “theory of counseling.” Rather it is a question about what you do or intended to as you counsel clients.]

C. How does your approach to counseling relate to your views about "good mental health?" That is, how do you see what you do as counselor (above B) facilitating a client’s healthy functioning (above A).

D. How will you evaluate your own counseling? That is, how will you know whether or not you are being helpful or hurtful to your clients? Be as specific as you can—what will you look for? what will you measure? what will constitute “evidence” that you are making a difference (be it for better or worse).
Case Formulation Outline for Class Presentations

For class presentations, prepare a brief (1-2 pages) summary of your session with copies for each person in the class. Use the following format:

Client: (use an initial only)  Age:  Sex:
Session #:  Session Date:
Any other relevant data:  (e.g., lives in dorm; freshman)

I. Presenting Complaints
- use illustrative quotes from the client
- list only complaints from that particular session
- if the quotes aren't completely self-explanatory, then add any needed additional information
Examples:
A. "My boyfriend broke up with me and I feel lost without him."
B. "Everytime I take a test, I feel like my mind goes blank."

II. Dates of Onset and Precipitating Events
- for each complaint listed above, you must list the date of onset and what happened to precipitate the complaint
- if the client doesn't know (or you forgot to ask) just list "not sure" or make an educated guess
Examples:
A. last Friday evening; boyfriend called her and told her he wanted to break up
B. Monday morning during a biology exam; remembers feeling like this during science or math tests since 8th grade; precipitating event during 8th grade

III. Defenses
- list defense mechanisms you note during this session with an example or explanation for each one listed (see next page for more complete list)
Examples:
A. Regression: cried when talking about boyfriend
B. Vagueness: account of telephone conversation with boyfriend was devoid of details
C. Reversal: laughed when she talked about her mind going blank during the test
D. Generalization: "Everyone blanks out on a science test!"

IV. Predisposing Influences
- list any possible childhood influences on the complaints presented in this session
Examples:
A. Mother told her as a child that girls weren't good in science or math

V. Questions
- list 1 to 3 (no more than that) questions that you have after the session
Example:
A. Possible dependent traits?
EGO DEFENSE MECHANISMS

FUNCTION: COPE WITH ANXIETY & PREVENT EGO FROM BEING OVERWHELMED

There are many types of defense mechanisms. Below is a list of the most common types.

A. REPRESSION: INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF EVENTS FROM CONSCIOUSNESS (EX: 1ST FIVE YEARS)

B. DENIAL: CONSCIOUS OR PRE-CONSCIOUS LEVELS (EX: DENIAL OF LOVED ONE'S DEATH)

C. REACTION FORMATION: ACTIVELY EXPRESS THE OPPOSITE IMPULSE (EX: HATE COVERED BY FACADE OF LOVE)

D. PROJECTION: ATTRIBUTE TO OTHERS ONE'S OWN UNACCEPTABLE DESIRES AND IMPULSES (EX: SEES A PARTICULAR PERSON AS HATING, YET REALLY HATES THAT PERSON)

E. DISPLACEMENT: IMPULSES MOVED TO SAFER TARGET (EX: MAN TAKES OUT ANGER WITH BOSS ON HIS WIFE)

F. RATIONALIZATION: EXPLAIN AWAY PAIN (EX: A WOMAN WHO DOES NOT GET A JOB SHE APPLIED FOR MAY SAY SHE NEVER WANTED IT ANYWAY)

G. SUBLIMATION: DIVERTING UNACCEPTABLE IMPULSES INTO SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE CHANNELS (EX: AGGRESSIVE IMPULSES CHANNELED INTO ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES)

H. REGRESSION: TO AN EARLIER PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT WHEN LIFE WAS "EASIER" (EX: WEEPING)

I. INTROJECTION: TAKING IN (SWALLOWING) THE VALUES OF OTHERS (EX: THE ABUSED CHILD ABUSES OTHERS)

J. IDENTIFICATION: MEANS OF ENHANCING SELF-WORTH BY IDENTIFYING WITH SUCCESSFUL CAUSES, ORGANIZATIONS, OR PEOPLE

K. SPLITTING THE AFFECT: NO EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO A PAINFUL EVENT

L. MINIMIZATION: ATTEMPTS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EVENT

M. UNDOING: TO NEGATE AN ACT OR THOUGHT (EX: UNAVAILABLE FATHER SHOWERS CHILD WITH MATERIAL GOODS)
Suggested Books

The following list is intended to serve as a guide for your selection of books to further your learning. It is certainly not “complete”. I strongly encourage you to read widely and to re-read materials as you gain more experience as a counselor. I have chosen books that focus on interventions for individual counseling, although sections on theory may also be included.

Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic


Humanistic/Existential


Cognitive/Behavioral


**Specific Topics**


**Miscellaneous** (These books do not provide specific information about interventions, but are useful for diagnosis, report writing, etc.)


1. "Theories of psychotherapy should anchor, not drown, the therapist."
2. "A patient is a sufferer who cannot cope and who believes in the therapist."
3. "Diagnosis in psychotherapy means understanding human conditions that are both unique and universal."
4. "Behind the question, What do I want? is the larger question, Who am I?--or even Am I?"
5. "Patients come to treatment in search of a substitute object, if not a substitute self."
6. "The therapist must establish a psychologically safe environment, wherein anything can be said and any feeling experienced."
7. "The therapist establishes the optimum therapeutic environment through a balance of neutrality and empathy."
8. "The therapist and the patient need to share a view--or myth--of illness and its cure."
9. "A shared myth between the therapist and patient may be culturally inherited, but their shared intention must be mutually cultivated."
10. "By heightening or lowering arousal, the therapist enters the patient's world."
11. "The therapist's suspended attention is not only objective but empathic."
12. "The therapist who "completely understands" the patient has stopped listening."
13. "Therapists tend to underestimate the power of listening and overestimate the power of speaking."
14. "Do not strangle the patient's questions by answering them."
15. "The therapist's silence is intended to facilitate treatment; the patient's silence unintentionally resists it."
16. "Silence is not always golden; it can be misused by the therapist and misunderstood by the patient."
17. "Behind the patient's silence is a wish to be understood without verbalizing."
18. "The therapist and the patient develop a communicative intimacy that does not exist in other relationships."
19. "The patient's patterns of relatedness determine the moment-to-moment course of the therapeutic relationship."
20. "The patient's undue dependency on or failure to get close to the therapist represent two sides of a rapprochement conflict."
21. "The therapist's failure to facilitate transference may reflect excessive activity; failure to establish an empathic bond reflects insufficient feeling for the patient."
22. "Psychotherapy communication can begin only where ordinary conversation leaves off."
23. "Only the unconscious can reach the unconscious."
24. "Anything that can't be said concisely is best not said at all."
25. "The therapist must develop a latency of response, then work further to shorten the time."
26. "The patient will be both eager for and resistant to change; the therapist must accept the patient's whole while rejecting dysfunctional parts."
27. "The therapist never rests in the presence of negative transference."
28. "Positive transference can be perilous and is the main culprit in benign premature termination, acting out, and prolonged dependency."
29. "The therapist may be deceived by positive transference of any stage of the therapy, when the therapist's self-image matches the patient's transference disposition."
30. "The therapist's failure to distinguish actual negative feelings from negative transference will enrage the patient and bring the treatment to a rapid end."
31. "The therapist's failure to distinguish actual positive feelings from positive transference will diminish the patient and bring the session to a slow end."
32. "The beginning and ending of sessions tend to be untidy and must be tied together."
33. "Exit and entrance lines reflect the transferenceal themes of separation and intimacy."
34. "The therapist must not have a private agenda."
35. "The therapist's task is to experience the patient's dilemma, not to solve the patient's problems."
36. "The careful interpretation meets four criteria: optimum timing, minimum dosage, concrete detail, and individual focus."
37. "Theory-driven interpretations are impersonal and alienating to the patient."
38. "Every interpretation is incorrect on some level."
39. "The therapist's technique bends under the weight of the patient's weakness."
40. "All interpretations are deprivations: good ones bring disappointment and bad ones cause disengagement."
41. "The interpretation of symptoms may dissolve resistance, but the interpretation of character traits may generate it."
42. "Minimum cues should not be met with even minimum confrontations."
43. "Good moments and sudden insights may deceive the patient and derail the therapist."
44. "The success of psychotherapy can be attributed to the patient and its failure to the therapist."
45. "Only when the patient becomes more vulnerable within treatment will he or she become less vulnerable outside treatment."
46. "Therapy, like all relationships, is time-limited."
47. "Psychotherapy is like a slow-cooking process that has no microwave substitute."
48. "Every therapist must be prepared for the element of surprise--which can only come in the psychotherapy experience itself."