

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Practicum & Internship Policies

Enrollment in practicum and internship are considered critical experiences for successful completion of the master's program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Primary goals of both practicum and internship are to develop mental health counseling skills and to promote the development of the student's professional counselor identity in an organization compatible with their program emphasis area. Practicum and Internship activities will take place at departmentally approved community sites with appropriately qualified supervisors where the intern can work with clients appropriate for the student's program emphasis.

Practicum (CED 741)

Placement requires students to complete 100 hours in an approved community setting under supervision from faculty and site supervisors. Students typically spend 6-10 hours per week involved in direct and indirect counseling activities and individual and group supervision. Hours in practicum must be accrued throughout the 15-week semester. Students ordinarily earn practicum credit at a single site; the department faculty must approve requests for an additional practicum site.

Internship (CED 751, 752, 753)

Requires 600 hours total of direct and indirect counseling in community settings. Of these, at least 240 hours must involve direct client services. Students enroll in CED 751, 752, and 753 sequentially, based upon the number of hours in the field. Each one-credit section of CED 751, 752, and 753 equals 200 internship hours. Note that a \$250 supervisor fee is assessed upon registration for CED 751. Students ordinarily earn internship credit at no more than two sites per semester; the department faculty must approve requests for an additional internship site. The minimum time investment expected at an individual site placement is 15 weeks (one semester). Please note that students who choose to pursue full time completion of their internship hours (30-40 hours weekly) may not be employed full time. In the semester prior to beginning Internship, students should select an Internship site in consultation with the Advisor that is consistent with their needs and their program area. **All Internship sites must be approved by the Department** (a current list of approved sites is available in the Department office). **Work at the Internship site begins only after the student enrolls in, and begins attending, CED 751, 752, 753.** Enrollment will be consistent with those guidelines described in the CACREP standards. **Students must register for a minimum of one credit hour of CED 751, 752, 753 each semester during which they work as Interns.** During internship, the department faculty will provide opportunity for discussion of professional and ethical issues related to the practice of counseling through a weekly on campus seminar. Attendance at this seminar is required for a minimum of one semester and then continues until the total internship hours are accrued. Students may discontinue attendance at the seminar only after completing one full semester and completing all required hours (and must have the permission of the current instructor). Instructors may determine that the student should continue the entire seminar (lab) sequence.

Advanced Internship (CED 775)

Builds upon the skills developed in the first 600 hour internship experience and requires an additional 300 clock hours of supervised counseling experience in an organization compatible with their program emphasis area. Of these hours, 120 client contact hours are required at a minimum. Overall, students are required to accrue a total of 900 hours in Internship and Advanced Internship experiences.

Practicum Requirements

The practicum experience is designed to foster critical individual and group counseling skills necessary for the quality practice of professional counseling. In accordance with standards developed by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), practicum consists of a minimum of 100 hours of supervised counseling activities. Of these, a minimum of 40 hours must be in direct individual counseling services, a minimum of 10 hours must be in direct group counseling services, with the remaining hours to be in appropriate indirect counseling related activities as outlined below:

50 Direct Hours include:

- Individual counseling (40+ hours)
- Group counseling (10+ hours)

50 Indirect Hours may include:

- Counselor observation
- Individual case conceptualization planning for client needs
- Researching strategies based on counseling theories
- Writing case progress notes
- Group supervision, UNLV faculty supervision, and on-site supervision

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Internship Requirements

The UNLV master's Clinical Mental Health Counseling internship experience is designed to continue fostering quality counseling skills, as well as offer interns the opportunity to apply their knowledge of Clinical Mental Health Counseling in a field based experience. In accordance with standards developed by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the internship consists of a minimum of 900 hours of field-based Clinical Mental Health Counseling activities. Of these, a minimum of 360 hours must be in direct counseling services, with the remaining hours to be in appropriate indirect counseling related activities as outlined below:

360 Direct Hours may include:

- Intake interviews
- Assessments
- Individual counseling
- Group counseling

540 Indirect Hours may include:

- Case management
- Counselor observation
- Individual case conceptualization planning for client needs
- Researching strategies based on counseling theories
- Writing case progress notes
- Group supervision, UNLV faculty supervision, and on-site supervision
- Professional development activities including: Conferences and workshops

Videotaping

In accordance with CACREP standards for counseling supervision, practicum and internship students must have opportunities to regularly videotape counseling contact with clients. In a clinical mental health setting, this involves videotaping individual and group counseling. *Site placements that do not allow for videotaping will not be considered and students will be placed in other settings.* Students are responsible for meeting the videotaping expectations established by practicum and internship instructors.