UWRF Counseling Program

Student Handbook:
Internship Experiences

Questions?
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Internship is the culminating activity in the training of professional counselors. Internship provides the counselor-in-training with the opportunity to integrate and to apply counseling theories, skills, and practices in schools under the supervision of a licensed school counselor.

You must complete 600 total clock hours of supervised internship, with hours at primary, intermediate, middle level, and senior level school sites.

For the student, internship provides the opportunity to:

1. practice and refine one’s counseling skills;
2. integrate academic theory in actual counseling situations in K-12 schools;
3. experience counseling in a K-12 school setting;
4. build professional contacts with practicing school counselors and community resources;
5. gain confidence in one’s ability to function as a professional school counselor; and
6. begin to identify needs and to envision one’s own contribution to the school counseling profession.

Questions or concerns about anything in this handbook should be referred to:

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UW-RF EXPECTATIONS OF INTERNSHIP SITES AND SUPERVISORS

I. Internship sites must be able to provide a student with the following:
   1. opportunities for both observation and counseling; and
   2. opportunities to engage in all the following areas:
      a. individual counseling
      b. group counseling
      c. family consultation
      d. educational/developmental activities
      e. staffing of clients/students
      f. consultation with other professionals
      g. evaluation of services and program development
      h. report writing and other administrative tasks
      i. testing/assessment
      j. provide experiences with diverse client population including ELL students

   It is recognized that not every site provides the opportunity for all of these activities, but it is
   our intent that internship students experience a broad variety of the tasks performed by
   counselors. Students need to have experience in all these activities by the time they
   complete their experiences at all of their multiple sites.

II. Internship supervisors must:

   1. hold a degree/license/certification in the area of expertise sought by the internship student; in
      schools it is mandatory that the supervising school counselor hold a valid license for the
      level of school counseling at which they are providing supervision; AND have three (3)
      years of experience at the level they are supervising (e.g. elementary counselor) plus have at
      least one year of experience in that school or district.

   2. be willing and able to observe the student and offer regular, weekly feedback;

   3. be willing and able to allow regular time to consult with the student;

   4. be willing and able to meet with the student and the university supervisor at least twice to
      discuss the progress of the internship. This will be done at the internship site and at the
      convenience of the on-site supervisor;

   5. be willing to complete a “Internship Evaluation” of the student over the course of the
      internship.

   REQUIREMENTS:

III. Internship students are expected to meet the following requirements before beginning internship:

   1. Successfully complete all core counseling courses; remove any incompletes in those courses;

   2. Successfully complete the program’s written comprehensive exam;

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3. Participate in Group informational meetings at least one semester before registering for internship.

4. Identification, with the assistance of the internship coordinator, of a internship site that will meet the university's expectations for a internship site, as well as the needs of the individual student.
   - This site will not ordinarily be identical with the work site of the student.
     - Approved internship sites will provide a variety of counseling experiences;
     - Allow the student to function as a counselor; will provide internship times so as to provide a realistic counseling experience.
   - Time spent in the internship must be extensive, consistent, and regular (For example, a school counseling internship cannot consist solely of preparation periods and/or hours outside the regular school day).
   - Final approval and confirmation of a site is a consensus decision made by the entire counseling program faculty, and it may involve a pre-internship meeting of the potential supervisor and the university internship coordinator. (Allow enough time for the approval of unique situations).

5. Follow any specific instructions of a school district before approaching counselors in that district for internship placement. Please work with the Internship Coordinator when reviewing the updated list of school districts with specific requirements.
   Do not approach district coordinators within specified districts without following their procedures;

6. Submit Counseling Internship/internship Agreement forms by December 1st or May 1st. These require signatures of student, site supervisor, and university supervisor. Internship hours may NOT be counted until this form is in AND the University Semester has begun.

7. Final department approval of all students registering for internship is required.

IV. During the internship semester, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Meet with all internship students in seminar (which is part of the internship courses-COUN 771, 772, 773). School counseling students should register for COUN 771 (3 credits), 772 (3 credits), 773 (3 credits);
2. Arrange, at least two supervision opportunities per semester;
3. School counseling students must complete 600 hours, 200 hours per site;
4. complete all forms/logs/seminar requirements detailed in the syllabus.
5. complete the internship hours during the UWRF semester (for example students who have met all requirements listed above may begin to collect direct contact and indirect contact hours on the first day of a semester. They may also collect hours until the last day of final exams).
CHECKLIST OF STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

I. To be completed before beginning internship

✓ Attend pre-internship informational meeting;
✓ Complete core counseling courses;
✓ Removing any incompletes in core courses;
✓ Successfully complete program comprehensive examination;
✓ Apply to and interview at approved internship site(s). **Follow specific procedures required by individual school districts**
✓ Submit Counseling Internship Agreement forms by December 1st or May 10th.
✓ Register for COUN 771, 772, 773, Internship [school]

II. To be completed during the internship semester

✓ Meet with Internship seminar group;
✓ Satisfactorily complete 600 school hours of supervised internship experiences during the UWRF semester(s);
✓ Fulfill all seminar requirements (forms, logs, case studies, presentations, etc.);
✓ Arrange and engage in at least 2-3 supervision conferences per semester with both on-site and university supervisors; and
✓ Submit written supervisor evaluations from each site.

III. Counseling Internship Agreements

✓ Once a site has been secured download Internship Site Agreement Form from UWRF counseling web page
Malpractice Coverage for Student Counselors/Teachers/Interns

All University of Wisconsin System student counselors/teachers/interns are covered for personal injury and property damage under the State of Wisconsin Insurance Fund. The following areas are included in the policy:

1. Personal injury
2. Property damage (includes intangible properties such as defamation of character).
3. Libel and slander.
4. Wrongful eviction (out of living quarters).
5. Malicious prosecution (arrested in error).
6. Wrongful entry.
7. Assault or battery committed for the purpose of preventing injury.
8. Corporal punishment of pupils.
9. Automobile liability coverage in state cars. (Student Driver Authorization Forms must be completed for liability coverage by all non-payroll personnel. These forms may be obtained from your local university insurance coordinator.)

- Neither the U.W. System nor the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities carry health insurance for interns or student counselors/teachers. The student may, however, be covered by programs at the individual college or university. You may wish to join the Student Education Association in your major for additional benefit packages offered by those associations, i.e., WEA, MEA, etc.