



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Unibetsedåt Guahan

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

June 20, 2008

Memorandum

TO: Mary Spencer, Ph.D., Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Via: Kyle Smith, Ph.D., Psychology Program Assessment Coordinator

FROM: Iain K. B. Twaddle, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology

RE: *Psychology Practicum - Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report*

This report outlines the results of my PY492 *Psychology Practicum - Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Project* conducted in Spring 2008. The project was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Psychology Practicum in preparing students for professional work in the mental health and social service field.

At the end of the Spring 2008 Semester, practicum supervisors were asked to evaluate student performance in eight areas directly addressing the course learning objectives. Please note that this assessment project was used to evaluate student learning outcomes only; other methods of evaluation were used for the determination of student grades.

Participants included eight practicum supervisors from five settings, including the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Adult Services (DMHSA-Adult), the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – *I’Famagu’on-ta* (DMHSA-I’Fam), the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA), and Sanctuary, Inc (SI). Each practicum supervisor completed a form which asked him or her to rate the student’s performance in each of eight competency domains, using both quantitative and qualitative measures. The results are presented in the attached report.

I would like to thank the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for supporting the assessment of student learning.

PY492 Psychology Practicum - Spring 2008
Practicum Supervisors' Ratings of Student Learning in Eight Competency Areas

Table 1

Distribution of Supervisors' Ratings and Mean Rating Scores for Eight Competency Areas

Competency	Likert Scale Rating							N/A	Mean Rating
	None 1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7	Moderate			Excellent				
1. Familiarity with the breadth of mental health and social service programs available in Guam.		20%	40%	40%					5.2
2. Familiarity with the types of services provided at the agency where the student conducted his/her practicum.			30%	70%					5.7
3. Familiarity with basic professional skills for conducting client/consumer interviews and/or counseling sessions.		10%	20%	60%			10%		5.6
4. Knowledge of mental health problems, psychopathology, and the DSM-IV diagnostic system.		50%	10%	40%					4.9
5. Understanding of professional ethics as outlined in the APA's <i>Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct</i> .		20%	10%	50%			20%		5.1
6. Experience in applying clinical psychology knowledge and skills through direct contact with clients/consumers in the practicum setting under the supervision of a qualified professional.		10%	30%	60%					5.4
7. Understanding of the issues and concerns faced by professionals providing mental health or social services in a multicultural Pacific Island community.		10%	20%	60%	10%				5.7
8. Preparedness for taking on a professional role in the mental health or social service field after graduation.		10%	20%	70%					5.6

Table 2
Supervisors' Qualitative Ratings for Eight Competency Areas

Competency	Practicum Supervisors' Comments
1. Familiarity with the breadth of mental health and social service programs available in Guam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More exposure to other social services on island is recommended. (SI) • Student could expand more on services; was limited because of meetings and accreditation. (SI)
2. Familiarity with the types of services provided at the agency where the student conducted his/her practicum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student was exposed and introduced to all the different services provided by Sanctuary. (SI)
3. Familiarity with basic professional skills for conducting client/consumer interviews and/or counseling sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student has shown professional skills when conducting interviews and supportive counseling sessions. (SI) • Did not participate in intake assessment due to "no show" of families. (DMHSA-I'Fam)
4. Knowledge of mental health problems, psychopathology, and the DSM-IV diagnostic system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more exposure and knowledge with the DSM-IV diagnostic system. (SI) • She demonstrated the knowledge and ability of systems of care philosophies and its effectiveness. (DMHSA-I'Fam) • Didn't really utilize this with clients in shelter. (SI)
5. Understanding of professional ethics as outlined in the APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student seemed to demonstrate knowledge of ethics in that she takes her role seriously as an intern/practicum student. (SI) • Student was not questioned during practicum of this particular area until evaluation. She was able to express her knowledge of ethical conduct. (DMHSA-I'Fam)
6. Experience in applying clinical psychology knowledge and skills through direct contact with clients/consumers in the practicum setting under the supervision of a qualified professional.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her style in handling clients on a one-on-one basis is very good. She's very skillful and knowledgeable. (SI) • Only observational practices noted; no direct interaction with consumers at this time. (DMHSA-I'Fam)
7. Understanding of the issues and concerns faced by professionals providing mental health or social services in a multicultural Pacific Island community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After attending the Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN) conference in April, 2008, student shared fair knowledge of youth issues and wishes to find solutions to issues. (SI)
8. Preparedness for taking on a professional role in the mental health or social service field after graduation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student should be able to take on professional role in the social services field after graduation with ongoing training/workshops for enhancement and improvement. (SI)
Supervisors' Overall Evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was a great help. It has been an experience to work with her due to her effortless and countless efforts. She demonstrated to be a good team player as well as to work independently on a project that was tasked to her. (DMHSA-I'Fam) • Has great potential! He is inquisitive, respectful, deferential but appropriately assertive and knowledgeable. (DYA) • Was a pleasure to work with and will greatly gain more knowledge as she is exposed to more hands-on and direct interaction at her next practicum. She is more than welcome to return to I'Famagu'on-ta. (DMHSA-I'Fam) • She was a slow starter, but when she got going she hit her stride and she gave above average work and effort. (DYA) • Appears to be a very caring individual and wishes to provide her services and knowledge in the helping profession and ultimately wishes to make a positive difference in peoples lives. She is organized, serious in the work she does, and she is an achiever. (SI) • Student's schedule was a bit hectic, but still managed to come in. Student was cooperative and was able to learn the fundamentals of a non-profit agency. (SI)

Conclusion

The three lowest ranking competencies were as follows:

Lowest Rank: **4. Knowledge of mental health problems, psychopathology, and the DSM-IV diagnostic system.**

2nd Lowest Rank: **5. Understanding of professional ethics as outlined in the APA's *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.**

3rd Lowest Rank: **1. Familiarity with the breadth of mental health and social service programs available in Guam.**

The Student Learning Outcome Assessment results suggest that the course could be redesigned to increase exposure in these three areas. Supervisor's comments for these areas indicate that students should receive:

- "more exposure to other social services on island."
- "more exposure and knowledge with the DSM-IV diagnostic system."

Plans for Course Revision

Starting in Fall 2008, revisions to PY492 *Psychology Practicum* will be made as follows:

Competency 4

- All practicum students will be encouraged to purchase the DSM-IV.
- Consultations with Psychology faculty will be conducted to learn about the amount of exposure to the DSM-IV students receive in other Psychology classes.
- Approximately one to two hours of direct instruction will be provided focusing on the DSM-IV diagnostic system.
- The DSM-IV diagnostic system will also be integrated into group supervision to help students become familiar with the application of psychiatric diagnoses.

Competency 5

- All students will continue to be required to purchase the APA Ethics Code.
- Direct instruction on the APA Ethics Code will be increased from three to six hours.
- Ethics training will be revised to include training materials provided by the Director of the American Psychological Association Ethics Office, Dr. Stephen Behnke.

Competency 1

- Students will be given a thorough overview of Guam's mental health and social services agencies during the first three hours of class time.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to participate in tours of select mental health and social service agencies.
- Students will be given more time in group supervision to share their experiences in their practicum settings with their classmates.

CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM PROGRAM
University of Guam

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Practicum Supervisors:

This form is designed to assess student learning outcomes for UOG's Psychology Practicum Program. The information you provide below will help us to evaluate the extent to which our courses in general, and the practicum course in particular, are helping to prepare students for professional work in the mental health and social service field. This form will not be used to evaluate an individual student's performance in the practicum class or to determine his/her grade.

Please complete the form below and return to the practicum student in a sealed envelope by Friday, May 16. If you would prefer, you can return it to me by mail at the following address:

Iain K. B. Twaddle, Ph.D., Psychology Practicum Coordinator
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
University of Guam, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923

Thank you for assisting us with student learning outcomes assessment.

Sincerely,

Iain K. B. Twaddle, Ph.D., Psychology Practicum Coordinator
Email: itwaddle@uguam.uog.edu Phone: 735-2882

Student's Name: _____ Number of Practicum Hours Completed: _____

Practicum Agency: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Please rate the extent to which the student has demonstrated the following competencies as he/she nears the completion of his/her practicum training this semester. If you feel you did not have sufficient opportunity to evaluate the student in one or more of the competencies listed below, please leave the item blank.

1. Familiarity with the breadth of mental health and social service programs available in Guam.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Familiarity Moderate Familiarity Excellent Familiarity

Comments: _____

2. Familiarity with the types of services provided at the agency where the student conducted his/her practicum.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Familiarity Moderate Familiarity Excellent Familiarity

Comments: _____

3. Familiarity with basic professional skills for conducting client/consumer interviews and/or counseling sessions.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Familiarity Moderate Familiarity Excellent Familiarity

Comments: _____

4. Knowledge of mental health problems, psychopathology, and the DSM-IV diagnostic system.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Knowledge Moderate Knowledge Excellent Knowledge

Comments: _____

**Please complete items 5-8 on the other side of this page.*

5. Understanding of professional ethics as outlined in the APA's *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Understanding Moderate Understanding Excellent Understanding

Comments: _____

6. Experience in applying clinical psychology knowledge and skills through direct contact with clients/consumers in the practicum setting under the supervision of a qualified professional.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Experience Moderate Experience Excellent Experience

Comments: _____

7. Understanding of the issues and concerns faced by professionals providing mental health or social services in a multicultural Pacific island community.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
No Understanding Moderate Understanding Excellent Understanding

Comments: _____

8. Preparedness for taking on a professional role in the mental health or social service field after graduation.

1 ----- 2 ----- 3 ----- 4 ----- 5 ----- 6 ----- 7
Not Prepared Moderately Prepared Very Well Prepared

Comments: _____

Additional Comments (optional):

Supervisor's Signature: _____

Date: _____