



## CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### PUPIL SERVICES CREDENTIAL PROGRAM IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

#### School Psychology Practica Performance Expectations

##### *District Personnel:*

*We are indebted to you for your time and guidance in the training of our students. We appreciate the opportunity you have given them to learn from you, as well as provided them with opportunities to fulfill their program requirements. Students admitted to the AIU School Psychology Credential Program are expected to complete four hundred (400) hours of practica experience in a K-12 school setting. The following is a list of "Performance Expectations" which will help guide you as to what we would like to see our students accomplish during the completion of their practicum experience within your district:*

The School Psychology Practica program provides candidates with field based opportunities and specific experiences as aligned with the SPPEs (school psychology performance expectations), including, but not limited to the following (a) data-based decision making, (b) consultation and collaboration, (c) interventions and support to develop academic skills, (d) behavior interventions and mental health services to develop social and life skills (e) direct and indirect services-school wide practice to promote learning, (f) school-wide practices to promote behavioral and mental health (g) family school collaboration, (h) human diversity,(i) research and program evaluation, and (j) legal, ethical and professional practices and dispositions.

Practica consist of a series of supervised experiences that occur prior to the culminating field experience or internship, and is conducted in field-based settings. While completing their practicum component, all students have access to an Hourly Log which they are required to complete during their practicum experience. They can provide that list to district personnel at any time. Beyond that, the practicum component in the Alliant International University's program for school psychology candidates is really very similar to other universities that offer the same program: i.e., the practicum hours they need will include any of the following kinds of activities but not limited to:

- Shadowing/interviewing/observing psychologists and key school staff
- Student observations
- Observation and/or participate in IEP/SST meetings
- Interview counselors, teachers, and parents
- Candidates should be taking the opportunity to visit various community sites such as children's court, regional center, and at various alternative school sites if possible
- Engage in pre-counseling services (*if possible*)
- Interview staff regarding violence / crisis intervention/prevention programs
- Observe and if possible, assist in completing various psycho-educational assessments



- Observe and if possible, assist in completing Positive Behavior Plans
- Observe and if possible, assist in completing school-wide discipline policy (if there is one in place) and participate or observe in program or classroom development issues

A minimum of 450 clock hours of practicum is required according to the following standards and guidelines:

1. A minimum of three hundred (300) clock hours in a preschool to grade 12 school setting providing direct and indirect pupil services.
2. Up to 150 hours of experience may be offered through on-campus agencies (for example, child study center, psychology clinic, relevant educational research or evaluation activities), or community agencies (for example, private schools, community mental health centers).
3. Practicum is offered for academic credit or is a part of a course for which a candidate receives credit. This experience is a direct extension of program training goals and objectives, and concurrent instruction is provided as a part of the experience.
  - All practica experiences are evaluated by site supervisors. Practica evaluations are appropriate to the program design, objectives, candidate placement and candidate performance expectations
  - Practica experiences may include but not limited to observing/assisting with student observations, observing/assisting with interviews, observing/assisting school psychologist with various evaluations and assessments at different levels and observing/participating in group counseling
  - Practica experiences are nonpaid positions
4. Currently, the National Association of School Psychologists recommends that school psychologists who oversee any practicum student have at least two (2) years of experience. Students also receive direct and indirect weekly supervision from their practicum instructors within the program and are also monitored by the Program Coordinator and System-wide Clinical Practice Coordinator. At any time, the site supervisor may request a meeting to discuss the practica student's performance.

### **Hourly Logs**

In order to accrue the necessary practicum hours prior to internship, we expect our students to communicate and work with their supervisors to complete the required 450 hours in the span of six practicum classes with each class term consisting of 8 weeks (*per CCTC-- although we required 450 hours, the university highly recommends additional hours if possible -- just to give our students an even broader practicum experience*). Every student has two practicum logs with a list of activities that needs to be completed. The activities may be completed out of order. The log requires the student to indicate the date(s) of the activity, number of hours and the



supervisor's initials. Once a log is completed, supervisors are required to sign the bottom of the page.

Please note: Although we do encourage students receive experience in all of the activities listed, we do understand that depending on the district/site, some areas may be more heavily weighted than other areas.

### **Evaluation(s)**

Students are required to submit at minimal (2) supervisor evaluations. The first evaluation is completed when the student reaches 225 hours and a second evaluation is completed when the student reaches a total of 450 hours. All evaluations should be dated and signed to be accepted as complete.