Counseling Psychology (Ph.D.)

Practicum Training

All students with a master’s degree complete two academic yearlong practica. Students entering with a bachelor’s degree complete three years of practicum training. For all students the first practicum is located in our on-campus training clinic, The Institute for Individual and Family Counseling (IIFC). The IIFC is a community-based, psychological services center located on the University of Miami campus and is fully administered and staffed by the Counseling Psychology Program. The Director of the IIFC, a Counseling Psychology faculty member, oversees its daily management.

Practicum students provide individual, couple, family, and group psychotherapy, career and lifestyle counseling, psychological and educational assessment, and other related psychological services to non-student clients. Students are provided with individual and group supervision by a faculty member who is a licensed psychologist.

The IIFC also provides in-service training including invited community specialists on such topics as addressing child abuse, working with offender populations, gay and lesbian counseling, engaging adolescents, approaches with children, and the role of spirituality in counseling among others.

Students complete a second (and sometimes third) year of practicum experience in an outplacement site in the community. The outplacement is arranged by the Director of the IIFC and tailored to enhance the student’s expressed career interests and internship plans. The outplacement site provides an important way for students to further develop their expertise with a particular population. Students have the opportunity to work with diverse populations including clients with a wide variety of ages, ethnic backgrounds, lifestyles, and issues at both the Institute and outplacement sites.

Practicum students receive regular written and oral feedback on their performance from their supervisor, in consultation with outplacement supervisors/contacts. Students learn competence in such skills as preparing complete case presentations including assessment data, DSM IV diagnostic procedures, and theoretically-based and empirically informed treatment planning as well as conducting and writing full-battery assessment reports, involving clients of various ages and cultures.

Students can also complete an advanced practicum during their third year in the Program to increase their experience in specialized areas such as therapy with specific populations (e.g., children) in particular settings (e.g. counseling centers), or in particular areas of expertise (e.g., behavioral medicine, assessment, etc).