Practicum Overview

Following extensive academic preparation, students in all counseling tracks begin their year of supervised practice. The practicum experience is designed to provide a comprehensive therapy training that will allow students to practice skills learned in the classroom. The Program faculty is strongly committed to clinical training and has devoted extensive resources to make the practicum an outstanding learning experience. During the practicum year, students engage in a minimum of 20 hours per week (Mon. - Sat.) of practicum activities, for a total of 1000 hours.

The primary practicum placement occurs at our on-campus training facility, the Institute for Individual and Family Counseling (IIFC). The Director of the IIFC, a faculty member, oversees its daily management. Students at the IIFC are supervised directly by Program faculty in weekly individual (1 hour) and small-group (2 hours) supervision. Students fluent in Spanish may elect to do therapy in Spanish and have a bilingual supervisor.

Practicum students at the IIFC provide individual, couple, family, and group psychotherapy, career and lifestyle counseling, psychological assessment, and other related psychological services to clients from the community. The types of clinical activities vary with the track; for example, students in the Marriage and Family Therapy track have a preponderance of cases linked to family and couples work, and students in the Mental Health Counseling track are able to do group work and career counseling. At the IIFC, all students have the opportunity to work with clients with a wide variety of ages, ethnic backgrounds, lifestyles, and concerns. The IIFC has nine individual and group therapy rooms, each with video equipment. Some of the rooms are also constructed with a one-way mirror for live supervision. The IIFC has a child therapy room equipped with toys and games designated for children and adolescents. There is also an assessment room used to complete comprehensive psychological evaluations for children, adolescents and adults.

In addition to seeing clients in our on-campus training facility, students have an outplacement. The outplacement is arranged by the Practicum Coordinator and provides an important way for students to further develop their expertise with a particular population or professional setting. Group therapy experiences are available at many outplacement sites. 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 IIFC and outplacement sites. The clientele in all of the sites reflects the global community of Miami, and provides rich opportunities for developing multicultural competence. Throughout the practicum year, students are supported and assisted by the Practicum Coordinator in addition to their on-site supervisor.

Interim Director of the IIFC  
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