



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.  
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

### Description: Practicum 1

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PSY	8130	96145	3, 2009	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOSCI
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOS005
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	090701

### STAFFING

Examiner: Paul Bramston  
Moderator: Des Coates

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: PSY8010 and PSY8050

### RATIONALE

To become fully aware of the role of the professional psychologist, students need to work within a general psychological practice setting. The practicum requires the student to face some of the broader issues that the practising psychologist typically has to deal with in integrating academic learning with professional application. Students will learn about the function of the discipline of psychology in that setting; the role of other disciplines or professions, and the professional etiquette and ethics involved.

### SYNOPSIS

The first Practicum is designed to provide students with a structured situation in a clinical agency in which appropriate psychological skills can be developed to high levels of competency. It gives the student the opportunity to examine applied problems from a theoretical perspective and to then apply theoretically derived interventions. It promotes a scientist-practitioner model of the professional psychologist. Students will be encouraged to approach applied problems and skill based learning from a hypothesis based assessment perspective. The emphasis is on skill development in a supervised, structured environment. Expert feedback on performance is seen as an essential feature of the learning process and strong emphasis is placed on skill development under adequate supervision.

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of the practicum, students will be able to demonstrate many competencies identified in the APS Competencies for Psychologists (1996): case formulation, assessment, intervention, service implementation, professional legal and ethical principles, communication and professional and community relations in a clinical context. Actual content of the Practicum will include skills

as identified in the respective College Competency document. Specifically students will be able to:

1. conduct a preliminary intake interview with people from varied cultural backgrounds (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
2. formulate questions to guide further assessment and intervention (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
3. plan, conduct, and evaluate assessment case studies (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
4. plan, conduct and evaluate intervention case studies (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
5. demonstrate a working knowledge of the role of psychological interventions within a multidisciplinary team (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
6. construct and present case reports in oral and written formats setting (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation);
7. demonstrate insightful self-analysis of clinical intervention expertise (Mid-Practicum Interview and Final Practicum Evaluation).

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Specific goals for assessment and intervention skills to be arranged between student and supervisors. See Practicum Guidelines.	100.00

## TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Baird, BN 2007, *The internship, practicum, and field placement handbook*, 5th edn, Prentice-Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Directed reading as assigned and recorded in the Goals and Objectives Form. Students will consult relevant Psychological Journals.

Bramston, P 2008, *Practicum contract plan: review forms*, Department of Psychology USQ, Toowoomba, Australia.

Dobson, KS 2001, *Handbook of cognitive behavioral therapies*, Guilford Press, New York.

Jongsma, AE & Peterson, LM 2003, *The complete adult psychotherapy treatment planner*, 2nd edn, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ.

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd 1999, *Code of ethics, Rev ed.*, The Australian Psychological Society Ltd, Carlton South, Victoria.

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd 2003, *Ethical guidelines*, 5th edn, The Australian Psychological Society Ltd, Carlton South, Victoria.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Practical Experience	330.00
Supervisor Consultation	60.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
MID-PRACTICUM INTERVIEW	50.00	50.00	15 Jan 2010
FINAL PRACTICUM EVALUATION	50.00	50.00	26 Feb 2010

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as practicum seminars and group supervision) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To obtain a satisfactory standard on the final practicum evaluation of the University and setting supervisors, the student must obtain a satisfactory rating on all of the assessment criteria on the Practicum Evaluation Form.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
Not applicable.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To receive a passing grade in this course students must complete the required hours of Practical Experience as organized by the Psychology Practicum Coordinator and obtain a satisfactory standard on the Final Practicum Evaluation.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:  
As P is the only passing grade available for this course, all students who are qualified for a passing grade as in Assessment 4 will be given a grade of P. Other students will be given either a Failing grade if they do not achieve the goals stated in the Practicum Booklet (referred to in Assessment Note 10) or an Incomplete grade. Students who fail the Practicum cannot continue in the Program.
- 6 Examination information:  
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.

- 8 University Regulations:  
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

## **ASSESSMENT NOTES**

- 9 At the start of the practicum a contract will be drawn up between the on-campus supervisor, the setting supervisor and the student regarding supervisory and practicum requirements.
- 10 Specific goals for the practicum will be completed in each competency area by the setting supervisor and the student within completion of the first 80 hours of practicum. Goals are to make specific reference to assessment, intervention, and professional competencies listed by the appropriate APS College and the Psychologists Board of Queensland.
- 11 A record of all practicum activity hours and supervision must be maintained by students in log books (see Practicum Guidelines Booklet for details).
- 12 Supervision meetings will be held with setting and academic supervisors as specified in the Practicum Contract.
- 13 Assessment 1 is a Mid-Practicum Interview with Supervisors in the setting to determine the student's progress.
- 14 Assessment 2 is a Final Practicum Evaluation from the setting supervisor based on predetermined criteria for each practicum goal.
- 15 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of a practicum in extenuating circumstances.
- 16 Students will require access to email and internet access to UConnect for this course.
- 17 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.