Requirements for Field Experience
(PSY 441 and 442)
Field Experience in Psychology

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Course Description
This course is designed to be one in which the student is able to obtain experience working with professionals within an area of psychology. The student works with the joint supervision of the instructor and supervisor of the field instruction.

All academic requirements are due by the end of the semester. If you will not finish your field experience until after the semester ends, you may request an extension by emailing me at Lrieserdan@wcupa.edu

Initial Requirements for Field Experience

- Finding Field Experience Positions
  - Placements are located by the student and must be related to an area of psychology that interests you.
  - The department maintains a book of possible placement sites for you to consult.
  - Faculty members are available to assist you in selecting an area of concentration and determining if a field placement is appropriate.

- Number of Hours Required
  - 130 hours are required for each 3 credit hours earned. Maximum credit hours is 6 for PSY 441 & PSY 442

- Contact with Faculty Supervisor.
  - Contact the faculty member listed as the supervising faculty member (or the department chairperson) before the beginning of the semester in which you want to enroll in Field Experience.
  - Have your Field Experience placement chosen, as well as the name of the person who will be the field supervisor, and a working schedule arranged.
  - Complete a Field Experience Contract and a Contact Information Sheet with your on-site supervisor.
  - Deliver the completed Field Experience Contract and the completed Contact Information Sheet to the supervising faculty member (or department chairperson) to be enrolled in the Field Experience course(s).

Academic Requirements
All materials must be submitted before a final grade can be recorded.

- Field Experience Report (2-3 pages)
Format of the Report:
  - Organization Description: Provide an overview of the organization you worked in. Include the purpose of the organization, the organization's objectives and goals, the
number of staff within the organization or the unit you worked in, a description of
the other individuals you worked with and their responsibilities to the organization.
Based on your experience, describe what particular skills and knowledge (educational
credentials should also be included) are required by the organization’s professionals.

- **Clients Served:** Describe the clients/consumers or “users” of the organization’s
services using relevant demographic factors.
- **Your Field Placement Responsibilities:** Describe what type of work you did, when
you did the work, how supervision of your work occurred, and what your
relationship was to the other staff members in the organization.
- **Summary:** Provide an overall summary/conclusion of your fieldwork and explain
how the experience prepared you or shaped your goals for future employment or
education.

**Field Experience Log**
- Each day you are working in your field placement, you need to keep a log that
reports the number of hours worked for the day, what type of work you engaged in,
what you learned, what your impressions are of the work you are doing, and how
the work you are doing relates to course work you have had.
- At the end of the log you should reflect back over the entire experience and write
about how your learning changed over time, how your skills changed over time, and
how your impressions changed over time. An overall evaluation of your field
placement should also occur here as well.

**Research Paper**
- A 5-10 page APA style research paper on some aspect of the field placement (i.e., a
review of the pertinent professional literature) is required. You may choose to do
either a standard literature review OR a case study paper (which includes both a
focus on a specific case issue and a review of the relevant literature). *Remember,
only one is required for each 3-credit course. You do not have to do both. However, if
you are taking both 441 and 442, you need to complete two paper assignments!*

*Literature Review Requirements:*
- 5-10 page paper (i.e., a literature review, not independently conducted research) in APA
format.
- The focus should be on recent research in an area that you are gaining experience in at
your field placement (i.e. autism treatment, gerontology).
- The paper should use primarily scientific journals as the source of information.
- You should contact the instructor to help you select your topic.

*Case Study Paper Requirements:*
- 5-10 page paper in APA format.
- Select a client case involving a clinical issue - a problem that is likely to arise in other
cases rather than a problem that is specific to one particular client. **For reasons of
confidentiality, DO NOT use the real name of any client!** You may make up a name
for the purpose of your case study report.
- Describe the case issue.
- Discuss how the issue was or will be handled.
- Conduct a brief review of the current literature (use professional journals) on this
clinical issue. Based on that literature, briefly discuss if the issue could have been
handled differently, and if so, how.

**Evaluations:**
- **Student Field Experience Evaluation:** Complete the field experience evaluation to
provide feedback to the Psychology Department on your experience with your chosen
agency.
- **Field Experience Supervisor Evaluation:** A Field Experience Supervisor evaluation
will be sent (via e-mail) to your on-site field experience supervisor. This evaluation
will be returned to the academic supervisor electronically by the on-site supervisor.