

**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 [vjohnson@wcupa.edu](mailto:vjohnson@wcupa.edu)***

**Initial Requirements for Field Experience**

➤ Finding Field Experience Positions

- **Placements are the responsibility of the student.** All aspects of locating a placement and negotiating the terms of the placement are between the student and the field placement.
- Once you have located a possible placement, you should complete the **field experience attestation** form and return it to the instructor.
- The instructor will then determine whether the site offers you an opportunity to apply what you are learning in Psychology courses. If an affirmative determination is made, the instructor will add you to the PSY441/442 course(s).
- The department maintains a list of possible field experience 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 instructor **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 Attestation form.
- Deliver the completed Field Experience Attestation to the faculty instructor 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. This can be reported in a journal form or in an annotated spreadsheet. Be sure to add your hours up as you go showing the total number of hours you spent at your field site.
- 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.
- Your supervisor should sign the log before it is turned in at the end of the semester. Only one signature is necessary, however, some supervisors prefer to sign everyday and that is OK too.

### ➤ **Research Paper**

- A 5-10 page APA style research paper on some aspect of the field placement (i.e., a review of the pertinent psychology research literature) is required.
- You must choose a topic in psychology related to your field experience on which to focus.
- Find at least 3 articles from reputable peer-reviewed psychology journals published in the last 10 years describing an original research study on your topic. In your paper, you will summarize these articles to give your reader an overview of the state of the current science on your topic.
- You will also discuss how the science you are reviewing fits with your experience at your field site:
  - ✓ In what ways do the findings and conclusions from the articles you discuss match your field experience?
  - ✓ In what ways do the findings and conclusions from the articles not match your field experience?
  - ✓ What can your field site learn from the science?
  - ✓ What can scientists learn from your field site?
  - ✓ Be sure to include specific observations from your field experience to support your points.

- **For reasons of confidentiality, DO NOT use the real name of any client.** You may make up a name for the purpose of your research paper or use the client's initials.
- Be sure to edit your paper and include in text citations and references in APA format. You do not need a cover page or abstract.

➤ **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: You must obtain an evaluation of your work at your field site from your field experience supervisor. We recommend that you use the Field Experience Supervisor Evaluation form we provide, but you may choose to request a letter of evaluation from your supervisor instead.