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CNSK 1511: Practicum

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 2019

DEPARTMENT

Counselling Skills

DESCRIPTION

This course provides students the opportunity to put the skills and theories that they have learned into practice in social service settings. With a focus on empathy, ethical practice, and self-awareness, students engage directly with clients to solidify their learning.

CREDITS

5.0

YEAR OF STUDY

1st Year Post-secondary

PREREQUISITES

All previous courses in the Counselling Skills Foundational Certificate

COREQUISITES

None

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply empathy and active listening to a client-centred approach while maintaining safe and respectful relationships
- Demonstrate self-awareness and practice self-regulation when working in support positions
- Create a culturally safe, inclusive therapeutic environment
- Apply systems approach to group dynamics and behaviours
- Demonstrate ethical practice in written, verbal, and behavioural communication when working with clients
- Receive and incorporate feedback for the purpose of personal and professional development
- Recognize, contain, and deescalate trauma responses while upholding clients' resiliency and adaptation(s)
- Use language grounded in the counselling body of knowledge within community settings

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT & RECOGNITION (PLAR)

None

HOURS

Lecture: 16

Lab: 0

Practicum: 135

Other: 135

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

At an approved workplace/agency setting, students work under direct supervision of an approved agency supervisor. Once they are familiar with the practicum placement's policies and procedures, students participate in direct client support in individual or groups settings. Students may also attend agency case conferences and perform other related duties to support their learning. In seminars, instructional strategies include videos, assignments, group discussion/work, reflective practice, peer and instructor feedback.

GRADING SYSTEM

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

PASSING GRADE

S

EVALUATION PLAN

Type	Percentage	Assessment activity
Practicum		Midterm practicum assessment (S if complete, U if incomplete)
Practicum		Final practicum assessment (students must achieve at least 3/4 on all competencies to receive an S)
Assignments		Ethical dilemma (S/U based on 60% passing grade)
Assignments		Case study (S/U based on 60% passing grade)
Assignments		Video presentation (S/U based on rubric with peer and instructor feedback)

		Students must achieve a satisfactory grade on all evaluations in order to be successful in the course
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COURSE TOPICS

- Preparation for a support position (including choice of placement site, letters of application, phone and face-to-face interview techniques, etc.)
- Workplace/agency policies, guidelines, norms, and culture
- Exploration of ethical dilemmas
- Student-led case study discussions
- Practicum experience debriefing
- “In the field” vs in the program
- Self-care, self-regulation, and self-awareness
- Professional boundaries
- Group dynamics
- Feedback and group discussions arising from teachable moments

LEARNING RESOURCES

None

Notes:

- Course contents and descriptions, offerings and schedules are subject to change without notice.
- Students are required to follow all College policies including ones that govern their educational experience at VCC. Policies are available on the VCC website at:
<https://www.vcc.ca/about/governance--policies/policies/>.
- To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca>.

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