

Future Plans

Patricia F. Stewart-Hopkins

University of Cincinnati

## Future Plans

### Scholarship

In order to address my failings as a research scientist I must move forward with my dissertation. I learn best when I am forced to apply techniques to solve problems. The more I work with a problem the more I learn about how to solve that problem. Repeated critical evaluations of my relationships and effectiveness measurement instrument have resulted in repeated insights and revisions. In the final drafting of my dissertation proposal I will take the same approach to improve upon my familiarity with statistics applications. I have also formed an alliance with a statistician who will serve to further educate me in this area.

### Teaching

I will continue to invest time and energy to improve on my teaching methodologies. Utilization of the student feedback I request regularly will serve as a guide in this endeavor. I have also begun to consult with other professors regarding what works best in their classroom. Prior to each quarter I revisit my syllabus, lecture notes and classroom activities to make revisions and provide additional examples from current events or media excerpts.

These tactics will result in continued improvement and insight.

### Clinical

I need more experience and further supervision to establish my specialization in the area of serving children and families. Working towards independent licensure in a counseling position will provide me with this opportunity. I also plan to participate in clinical skills workshops and counseling conferences as part of my continuing education. After completion of my degree I will dedicate more time to this goal.

### Professional Involvement

At the moment I feel as though I am more a student than a professional. Perhaps as I move closer to my degree completion this transition will be made easier. I plan to become more involved with the Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association and attend local conferences in the coming year. I also plan to attain licensure in Kentucky and join the respective counseling association.

### Advocacy

In the interest of continued participation in advocacy efforts I plan to create opportunities for students to engage in community social action projects. These projects have been successful in the past and my students have

reported having continued interest in carrying out their action plans. I also carry out an advocacy project to provide a model for the students. I believe that this project highlights student strengths and their potential to become leaders in our community. In the future I hope to establish a campus group/club that focuses on community outreach and advocacy efforts.

In the arena of professional advocacy I hope to get more involved at the regional level. I have learned that our right to practice counseling is one that is under constant review and political action is necessary to protect these rights. Joining and actively participating in the regional counseling associations will provide me with a foothold on what political action needs attention most.