

Areas of Professional Competence

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Scholarship

My experience in the classroom and field inspired my research interest in the area of supervision relationships and effectiveness. Advancing the understanding of these dynamics in supervision will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of the supervisory process and in turn better serve counselors in training and their clients. I am certain my current research project will produce more questions about the dynamics and importance of relationship perceptions in the supervision/teaching situation. After completion of my dissertation I hope to continue exploration in this line of research. Coursework that have developed these areas of scholarship include the following:

Independent Study: Field Methods, Quantitative Research Series, Intermediate Statistics, Multivariate Statistics, Ecological Seminar and Individual Dissertation Guidance. My experience as a Research Assistant has also contributed to the advancement of my scholarly writing skills and understanding of the employment of research techniques.

Teaching

One of my principal goals as a doctoral student is to gain a sophisticated understanding of how to become a leader as a counselor educator. This will permit me to educate students in a way that will encourage them to be leaders, and inspire them to promote change in their community. My teaching experiences have helped me to establish my own teaching persona and

complimentary teaching style. Courses that have promoted the development of my teaching persona and style include the following: Practicum in Teaching, Internship, Preparing Future Faculty, and Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning Workshops. The teaching experiences that have contributed to my development include the following: Teaching Assistant in Multicultural & Diversity Issues, Teaching Assistant and Supervisor for Field Practicum & Advanced Counseling Skills; Co-instructor and Supervisor of Research Methods, Research Seminar and Practicum; Adjunct Professor of Introduction to Psychology 1 & 2, Human Relations, and Child Development.

Clinical

The clinical specialization areas of greatest interest to me include counseling children and adolescents, family counseling and multicultural competency. These are areas that I have focused on in my graduate work and continue to utilize in my practice as a counselor. I also have an interest in actively participating in collaboration and consultation to facilitate continued clinical skills development and promote ecological practice in the provision of community mental health services. The training I conducted for the Educational Service Center of Green County, Ohio in spring of last year focused on this task. Course work that demonstrates the establishment of these specialization areas include the following: Child Counseling, School Counseling, Family Interventions, Seminar in Child Clinical Psychology, Ecological Seminar, and Independent Study: Multicultural Issues. In addition to this course work my

experience as a teaching assistant in the graduate level Clinical Psychology course of Multicultural and Diversity Issues contributed to the advancement of my own multicultural competence. In my role as a teaching assistant and supervisor for the clinical skills courses I learned to be more creative when problem solving, the importance of a healthy supervisory relationship and that students can be great teachers. Completion of a weekend workshop style training on Motivational Interviewing also contributed to the advancement of my clinical skills.

Professional Involvement and Service

Professional involvement and service was a new experience for me. My contributions in this area are largely in the form of membership. I have been a member of the American Counseling Association, The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, The Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association, and Chi Sigma Iota. As a member of Chi Sigma Iota I organized and conducted study sessions for the comprehensive exam and helped to organize the first Ecological Conference. Last year I applied to present on two different topics at the national American Counseling Association conference. One of these applications was approved but due to my pregnancy I was unable to travel to the conference. In the future I hope to present my dissertation findings at a conference and participate more actively as a member of the above groups.

Advocacy

My advocacy efforts and social action as a student have been demonstrated by participation in and organization of a women's issues awareness event, a professional counseling advocacy project, and hosted a free clinical skills training. Last year I was inspired to organize and carry out a women's awareness event on campus. Participation by the student body was minimal but it was an empowering experience for me. In addition to the event I wrote a letter about unequal pay for woman that was printed in the school newspaper. I look at this experience as a success because it publicized the issue.

The second advocacy project I conducted was one for professional advocacy. After a rather disturbing lecture given by my professor I was prompted to speak on behalf of the counseling profession. My responses to the professor during class lead her to invite me to teach the class about the preparation for counselors to do counseling. In this presentation I explained the required education, specific coursework, practicum, internship and licensure procedures for professional counselors. In addition, I contrasted these requirements with those of psychologists. This task was daunting because there was no room for error and I felt that there was likelihood that my audience would be defensive. My audience was receptive and gracious; less could be said about my professor's response. I hope to become more involved in professional advocacy at a regional level after my degree completion.

My final advocacy project provided training on the integration of Ecological Theory with multicultural competency skills for employees of Green

County Educational Services. As professional counselors we are bound to practice with multicultural competence. Unfortunately, much of the training in this area lacks specificity. The training I provided focused on assessment and treatment planning which provided an opportunity to advance clinical multicultural competency and thereby better serve the children of Green County. Coursework that encouraged my practice of social action and advocacy include the following: Ecological Seminar and Professional Seminar.