

Section: Combined Clinical/Counseling Student Policies

Policy Number: 713.7

Subject: Combined Clinical/Counseling Policy on Extra-Contractual Psychological Work

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Legally and ethically, all activities considered the "practice of psychology" by students must be a defined part of the training program. Most student psychological work has previously been approved by the department. This includes work for which university credit is earned (i.e., practicum) and assistantships that have a standing agreement with the Department of Psychology. The [Utah Psychologist Licensing Act](#) provides guidance on the limitations imposed on trainees.

- Students-in-training must not represent themselves as psychologists by their statements, their roles, or the nature of their work. When students are engaged in work that is psychological in nature (particularly in the professional specialties of clinical, counseling, industrial/organization, and school psychology), they must be directly supervised by an appropriately licensed or certified psychologist. In rare cases where a student is certified to work in areas of human services (e.g., school psychology, social work, family counseling, psychiatric nursing, etc.), the student must carefully limit their work to the confines of that certification.
- The department is obligated to monitor the assistantships in which graduate students are placed to secure fair and relevant assignments, require adequate supervision, and guard against exploitation of student labor.
- If students wish to obtain Program approval for psychological work that has not been previously approved by the Program, requests must be in writing to the Practicum Assignment Committee and include all relevant information (listed below):
 - An appropriate supervisor (licensed PhD psychologist) must be available and have agreed to provide supervision of sufficient frequency.
 - Appropriate liability coverage is in place to cover proposed work (e.g., you have coverage from the facility where the work will be done).
 - A written contract outlining roles and requirements (including time commitment).
 - A list of all other psychological and assistantship work being done during the same period as the proposed work.